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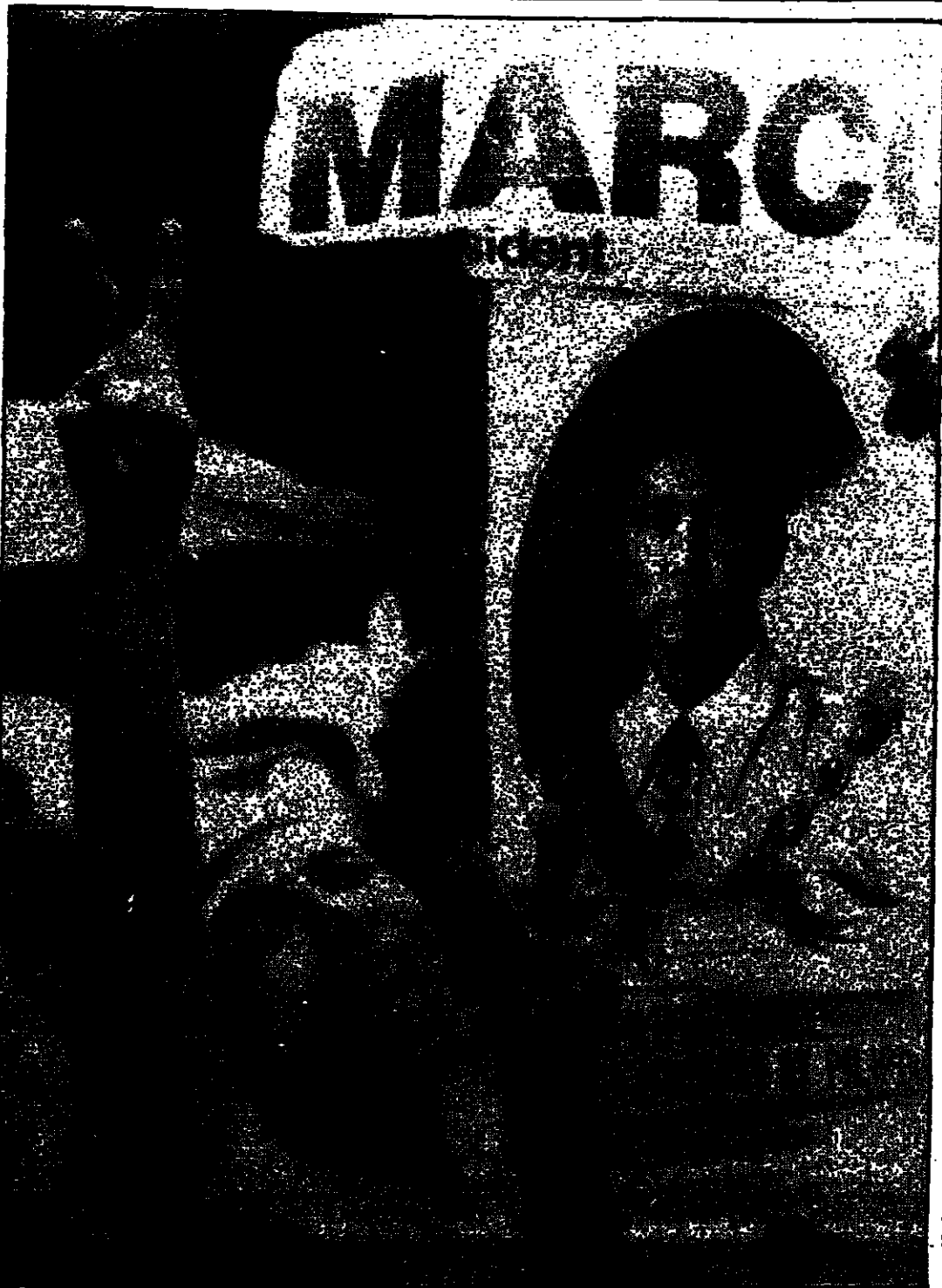
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One of the demonstrators near the Presidential Palace in Manila cries for the return of Marcos. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kuwait may free assets of debtors

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT is considering freeing the assets of individual debtors who have joined the Central Bank's debt settlement scheme, to boost the country's economy, according to Dr Mohammed Al Sabah of the Higher Planning Council.

Under the new plan debtors, banks and investment companies will jointly invest and manage the released assets in an effort

to help debtors meet their commitments to the banks and breathe new life into the economy, Al Sabah said.

But he pointed out that there are no plans to bail out the debtors. "The debt settlement scheme including the investigation of debtors' domestic and foreign assets will continue," insisted Al Sabah.

He acknowledged that the new plan is a major amendment of the settlement scheme that would harness the debtors' entrepreneurial skills and result in new projects. "Now there is light at the end of the tunnel," he said adding that the settlement scheme as it was executed lacked flexibility.

Millions of dinars worth of assets were frozen when debtors made rescheduling arrangements as part of the programme to solve the financial crisis in the aftermath of the Al Manakh stock market collapse.

Small investors complained that their assets were trapped and that they were pushed to the margins of economic activity.

He said that debtors who owned land would be encouraged to build on it and others who hold stock in unprofitable companies would be allowed to transfer their holdings. A new set of regulations would be required to put the plan into action and enable the investment companies to act as investment agents for debtors.

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Arafat accuses Israel of pogrom

BAGHDAD, May 20, (Agencies): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat accused Israel today of carrying out a massacre in the occupied territories because its elections plan had been rejected.

He said the Israeli Army had killed 16 Palestinians, injured more than 250 and arrested 1,200 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the past four days.

Arafat, chairman of the PLO, told reporters the "massacre" followed the failure of Israeli leaders "to neutralise our people and force them to accept the conspiracy of the elections."

Speaking at the Palestine embassy in Baghdad, he accused Israel and the US government of working together to impose elections on the occupied territories through different tactics.

He called for an urgent debate in the UN Security Council on the violence but said he expected the United States to block attempts to condemn Israel.

Drive

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has launched a domestic and international drive to sell his plan for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip leading to an interim period of limited autonomy.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin flew to the United States this week to promote the proposals, opposed by many Palestinians because they do not provide for international supervision of the polls and make no mention of the final status of the territories.

According to Reuters figures, at least 15 Palestinians and one Israeli have been killed since Wednesday in the 17-month uprising against Israeli rule of the occupied territories.

The Gaza Strip remained under an indefinite curfew today and two Palestinians died of gunshot wounds received during earlier confrontations with Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories.

Curfew

The Army clamped the curfew on the entire Gaza Strip on Thursday night, less than 24 hours after it had lifted a similar curfew on the region imposed on Monday night.

The overcrowded, impoverished strip was tense in the wake of rioting in the Shabura neighbourhood yesterday during which four Palestinians were killed and more than 20 wounded, Palestinian sources said.

Nazmay Musa Abu Khatla, 13, who was shot in the abdomen during the violence, died early today in Gaza's Nasser hospital, Palestinian sources and an Army spokesman said.

Today, at least three residents of Gaza's beach refugee camp were wounded during clashes with soldiers despite the curfew, Palestinian sources said.

In East Jerusalem, a Palestinian wounded during clashes with soldiers earlier this month in the West Bank village of Khadr died, hospital officials said.

Chinese rise up in rebellion

People blockade roads: troops turn back

BEIJING, May 20, (Agencies): The first full day of martial law in Beijing drew to close today with students and their supporters in noisy but uneasy control of the capital and few troops in sight.

Hundreds of thousands of people converged on central Tiananmen Square at sunset, many determined to protect pro-democracy students escaped there from what they feared might be a night-time Army attack.

"Supporters are going in by the truckload to protect the students on the square," said one public transport worker. "We feel there will be bloodshed."

Meanwhile, about 3,000 students who had been on a hunger strike there, some for as long as a week, decided to abandon their fast this afternoon to conserve their strength for the struggle ahead, student leaders said.

Other leaders said they gave up the hunger strike because the government lacked conscience and it wasn't worth it.

Premier Li Peng imposed martial law early this morning following the student's refusal to disperse from the square they have occupied since Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit earlier in the week.

"We are forced to take resolute and decisive measures to put an end to the turmoil," Li said of the student-led demonstrations which began with the death of Hu Yaobang, an ousted Communist Party reformer.

Li's order took effect at 10 am (0100 GMT) in eight districts of the capital, China Central Television said. The zone included Tiananmen Square.



A woman shouts in support of student sit-in protests in front of the Shanghai government building on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

No curfew was imposed, but Beijing Mayor Chen Xitong signed six measures forbidding marches, strikes, boycotts of classes, distribution of pamphlets, giving speeches, spreading rumours and attacks on party, government or military

organs and "any other destructive actions."

In a separate Chen order, foreign reporters were forbidden to conduct interviews or make tapes or videos on the streets or at

(Continued on Page 9, Col. 2)

PLO unveils 5-point plan

Israeli blueprint rejected

ABU DHABI, May 20, (Agencies): A senior Palestinian official said today the PLO will seek Arab League support for rejecting an Israeli plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip at next week's emergency Arab summit.

Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, criticised Egypt for not rejecting the Israeli blueprint drawn up by the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

He told a news conference that this was designed to "cut short manoeuvres for unilateral solutions" by the United States and Israel, charging that this was aimed at splitting Palestinian and Arab ranks.

The PLO has rejected the Israeli plan because it does not include an Israeli military withdrawal from the occupied territories or guarantee an independent Palestinian state.

Palestinian officials have branded the Shamir plan an attempt to undermine the 17-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

In Tunis the PLO said today it officially has notified the United States, at a meeting in Tunis, of its rejection of Shamir's peace plan.

Hakam Balaoui, the "ambassador of the Palestinian state" in Tunisia, made the formal notification in a memorandum he handed last night to the US ambassador to Tunis, Robert Pelletreau, the PLO said in a statement from its headquarters.

Hawatmeh said the PLO move to secure outright condemnation of the Israeli plan is part of a five-point strategy the PLO will submit to the summit due to convene in Casablanca, Morocco on Tuesday.

In Baghdad PLO leader Yasser Arafat said the strategy included action to stop what he termed Israeli massacres, formation of an international force to protect Palestinians and the convening of an international Middle East peace conference.

Hawatmeh, whose faction is part of the PLO under Arafat, was in the United Arab Emirates for pre-summit consultations.

The PLO will also urge the Arab leaders to normalise Palestinian-Syrian relations by taking over the reconciliation initiative from Algeria, following the agreement by Syria and the Palestinians to start a dialogue without preconditions, Hawatmeh said.

NEWSWATCH

Kashmiri group

RAWALPINDI, May 20, (Reuters): A Kashmiri separatist leader said today his group was responsible for many bomb and gun attacks in the state in recent months and would continue its anti-Indian agitation.

Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front chairman Amanullah Khan told a news conference: "This struggle will continue till every part of the state is freed from forced foreign domination."

Compensation

ABU DHABI, May 20, (Reuters): A Dubai-based lawyer said today that families of Iranians on board an Airbus shot down by the US Navy in 1988 had decided to sue the US government for compensation.

Salman Lutfi said the relatives would also sue the manufacturers of the radar equipment on the cruiser Vincennes which shot down the Iran Air plane, killing all 290 people on board.

Montazeri

PARIS, May 20, (KUNA): Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini will soon compel Ayatollah Montazeri to either repent publicly for earlier statements recognising the Mujahedin Khalq Movement or to set the stage for his physical elimination, opposition leader Masud Rajavi was quoted here today as saying.

Save Lebanon

BEIRUT, May 20, (Reuters): Lebanon's Army commander Michel Aoun, locked in battle with Syria and its Muslim allies, urged Arab states today to act quickly to save his country.

"Lebanon's future is at the crossroads, so is the Arab League's credibility and its existence," Major-General Aoun told a news conference in a basement shelter in the shell-scarred presidential palace.

50 die in collision

KHARTOUM, May 20, (AP): Fifty persons were killed and six others were badly injured when a bus collided today with a truck, the state-owned Sudan news agency reported.

It said the accident took place in the central region town of Abushar, 120 kilometres south of the capital Khartoum.

Adulterated oil

MADRID, May 20, (Reuters): A special court ruled today that adulterated cooking oil caused a mass outbreak of food poisoning in 1981 that killed 650 people and maimed 250,000.

DAY BY DAY

IT is most dangerous to start discussing vital issues such as the economic problem by confining discussions to the surface without taking action.

We have acquired economic problems that require solutions. And each day without a solution, means more losses to those whose misfortune has led them into playing by the business rules.

We mentioned before that government decisions were not exactly successful in addressing the economic problems. Hence, the government bears full responsibility for its mistake and speedy action to redress the situation remains the urgent need of the hour.

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Crew freed

Iran to return

KUWAIT, May 20, (Agencies): Iran has acknowledged through intermediaries that it is holding a missing Kuwaiti Coast Guard gunboat, released the crew and promised to send back the vessel, Kuwait sources said today.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said Kuwait was informed by Oman that the boat, which disappeared near the Khor Abdullah waterway on May 9, was in Iranian hands.

Iran released the crew, including several Egyptian workers, and is preparing to return the craft, the sources said.

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 5)

Followers pray for return

Marcos rally

MANILA, May 20, (Agencies): About 1,000 Ferdinand Marcos supporters marched today near the presidential palace and prayed President Corason Aquino would let the critically ill former president return home to die.

Marcos, 71, was in critical condition today in a Honolulu hospital after emergency kidney surgery, although hospital sources said his condition may be improving.

"In his current condition, there are periods of high and low," Gene Tiwanak, assistant administrator at St Francis Medical Centre said late yesterday. "I guess you can say, this is the time he's on the upswing."

Hospital officials said Marcos was suffering from renal, cardiac and pulmonary failure.

Aquino refused yesterday to allow Marcos to return from his Hawaiian exile and said her government will not permit the ousted president to be buried here despite an appeal from his wife.

Five cabinet members briefed Aquino today on Marcos' health, said presidential spokesman Adolfo Azuma. He said the ban on Marcos' return remained in effect.

About 1,000 Marcos loyalists, chanting "Bring back Marcos" and

(Continued on Page 9, Col. 1)

Islamic states support Saudi Arabia over haj

RIYADH, May 20, (Reuters): Islamic states have backed Saudi Arabia in a dispute with Iran over control of Islam's two most holy shrines and how many people can visit Makkah for the annual haj pilgrimage.

Ministers of religious affairs and Islamic endowments from 41 Islamic states ended a four-day conference in Jeddah yesterday by affirming the "unquestionable right" of Saudi Arabia to protect the holy sites in Makkah and Medina, officials said.

The delegates, meeting under the auspices of the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) also agreed that Muslim countries should once again be limited to no more than

one pilgrim per thousand of their population on the 1989 haj.

The limit was set for the 1988 haj after more than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed in riots in Makkah in 1987.

The Islamic ministers, who agreed to meet next time in Morocco, decided to set up an executive bureau in Makkah under the chairmanship of Saudi Haj and Endowments Minister Sheikh Abdul Wahab Abdul Wasse.

The religious affairs ministers of Jordan, Indonesia, Gambia, Pakistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt and Morocco will be members of the bureau which will have a three-year tenure and will meet every year.

Wounded Soviet MiG-29 pilot flies to Turkey, seeks US asylum

ANKARA, May 20, (AP): A Soviet Air Force officer who was fired upon when he fled in a MiG-29 today, landed in Turkey and asked for political asylum in the United States, an official said.

Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu identified the pilot as Capt Alexander Zuyef and said he was apparently wounded when he was fired upon during takeoff in his MiG-29 from a Soviet airport north of the Black Sea city of Batumi.

Zuyef was operated on and was in good condition at the Black Sea University Medical School Hospital in Trabzon, the city where he had landed, Batu told reporters.

Zuyef asked for US asylum as he was being interrogated by Turkish authorities in Trabzon, said the city's Governor, Evver Hizlan. The request was forwarded to the Interior Ministry.

US embassy officials in the capital, Ankara, refused to comment on the subject.

Batu said the Soviet ambassador was called to the Foreign Ministry and told that the MiG-29 would be returned.

Zuyef belonged to the Air Force's Mikatachaya unit, Batu said.

The Anatolia news agency said the plane was fully armed and a pistol was found in the cockpit.



The MiG-29 flown to Turkey by the Soviet pilot sitting on the tarmac at Trabzon airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Father unhooked son from respirator

Boy swallowed balloon

CHICAGO, May 20, (AP): A comatose 15-month-old boy whose armed father unhooked him from a respirator and held him until he expired officially died of accidental causes, the Cook county medical examiner has ruled.

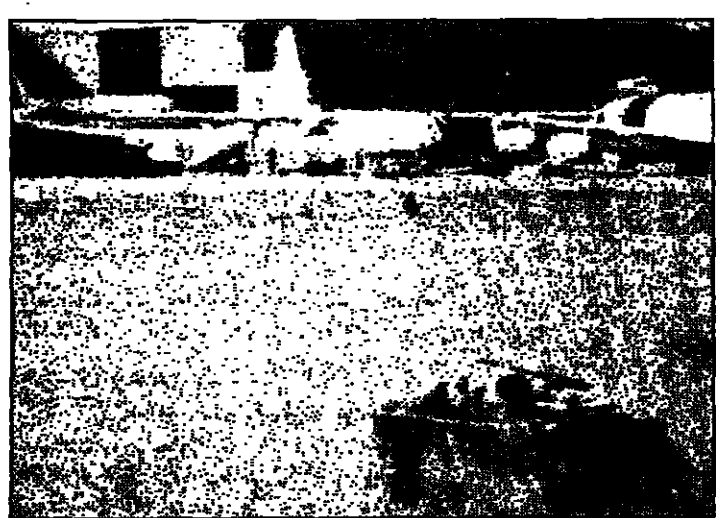
Dr Robert Stein made the ruling yesterday, the day after a grand jury declined to indict Rudy Linares, 23, who removed his sons' life support and held off hospital staff with a gun on April 26.

Samuel Linares had been comatose since accidentally swallowing a balloon last August. Officials at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Centre had refused the family's request to withdraw life-support.

Thousands cheer Ethiopian leader

Curfew imposed on Asmara

ADDIS ABABA, May 20, (Agencies): Half a million flag-waving and chanting Ethiopians crammed into Addis Ababa's Revolution Square today to hail the crushing of an attempted Army coup.



An Ethiopian Army tank stands guard by the runway at Addis Ababa airport on Friday as the first scheduled flight leaves after Tuesday's attempted coup against Mengistu. (Reuter wirephoto)

Army officers dropped

Niger reshuffle

NIAMEY, May 20, (Reuters): Niger President Ali Saibou, who has promised to return his country to constitutional rule by September, dropped two army officers from his cabinet in a government reshuffle yesterday.

The reshuffle, announced in a communique, also saw the return to the cabinet of several close associates of the late president Seyni Kountche, who died in 1987.

Among them were Foreign Affairs Minister Mamane Sani Bako, Planning Minister Almoustapha Soumaila and minister delegate to the interior Attaher Darko.

While increasing the number of ministries to 24, Saibou dropped two military men, minister delegate for defence Lieutenant-Colonel Bagrou Baidou and Youth and Culture Minister Captain Abdourahmane Seydou.

The number of military men in the cabinet apart from Saibou is now four, the fewest since he came to power.

The reshuffle was anticipated following the closing on Thursday of the congress of Niger's sole political party.

Mengistu, flanked by Army chiefs and top government officials, told the crowd: "You must be vigilant against conspirators who want to disrupt the peace and unity of the country."

Mengistu's government was quickly consolidating its position after loyalist forces in the northern city of Asmara broke the back of the four-day uprising and killed six generals who had led the 150,000-man northern command into revolt, according to official broadcasts.

There were unconfirmed reports that the 80,000-man eastern command based at Harer, which was earlier believed to be backing the coup, switched back to the government side after the collapse of the coup in Asmara.

Mengistu, noted for his ruthless suppression of opposition in the past, told the crowd that several senior officers had committed suicide and that others "are under arrest and will be brought to justice."

"The generals ... tried to present me as the enemy of the majority of their compatriots," Mengistu said, according to a text of the speech provided by a diplomat. "I ask whether their anger was against me or the popular order. Let the people give their verdict."

Two coup leaders, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Merid Negusie and Air Force Commander Amha Desta, were killed. Rebels shot dead Defence Minister Haile-Giorgis Habte-Mariam who had refused to join the uprising.

Diplomats in Nairobi have said the revolt appeared to have been sparked by discontent among some sections of the armed forces over government losses in battles with rebels fighting in the north.

Shaha accused of criticising Nepal

KATHMANDU, May 20, (AP): Former foreign minister Rishikesh Shaha has been charged with offences against the state after criticising the government during a visit to India, his lawyers and government officials said today.

If convicted, Shaha faces a maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment, a government official said on condition of anonymity.

Shaha was arrested yesterday, two days after returning from New Delhi where he was widely quoted in Indian newspapers as saying that India should assume Nepal's defence duties and that there were at least 300 political prisoners in Nepalese jails.

Shaha, 64, who heads the human rights organisation of Nepal, was taken to a Kathmandu court immediately after his arrest and freed on bail of 2,000 rupees

(\$74), one of his lawyers said, also on condition of anonymity.

He was ordered to return to court on June 19.

The arrest came after the presidents of the district assemblies of Kathmandu and nearby Bhaktapur and Lalitpur alleged that Shaha had made "baseless and treacherous remarks" that tried to undermine

Nepalese "sovereignty, independence and integrity." The complaint asked that "as he has committed a crime against the constitution of the nation by stating Nepal should leave defence matters to India, he be punished."

District assembly members are elected by local voters on a non-party basis or appointed by the central government.



Boat people

An angry legislator in Hong Kong, temporary home to over 30,000 impoverished Vietnamese, has called for the boat people to be dumped off the coasts of Britain and the United States.

Picture shows a young Vietnamese boy clinging to a barbed wire fence while awaiting food in a temporary camp in Hong Kong. (Reuter wirephoto)

5 killed in Punjab violence

CHANDIGARH, May 20, (AP): Sikh extremists slipped into the house of a Communist Party leader in the northern state of Punjab today and killed him and four relatives as they slept, police said.

A police official in Chandigarh, the state capital, identified the victims as Dalip Singh, his wife, daughter, son, and daughter-in-law. Dalip Singh, a Sikh, was the local leader of the Communist Party of India-Marxist.

The United News of India news agency said Singh's 2-year-old grandson and a 3-year-old granddaughter, who were severely wounded in the early morning shooting, also died.

The police official in Chandigarh said four Sikhs armed with Chinese-made assault rifles scaled a wall around Singh's house in Chak Rahian village and opened fire on the people sleeping in the courtyard.

The extremists came in a jeep and fled in the same vehicle, said the official.

Mattresses and bed sheets were soaked in blood and bodies were lying in the courtyard, he said, quoting reports from Chak Rahian.

4 arrested for arms smuggling

Hijackers held

NEW YORK, May 20, (UPI): Two South African arms manufacturers and a Connecticut couple were arrested on charges of trying to sell guns to undercover federal agents posing as arms smugglers, authorities said.

The arrests yesterday followed an investigation in which the suspects met with agents at posh eateries throughout New York City and Connecticut and plotted to smuggle thousands of assault rifles, shotguns and even missile launchers, authorities said.

The agents claimed to be arms dealers interested in buying weapons to sell to a Colombian terrorist group known as M-19, said Vincent Milano, a spokesman for the US Customs Service, which conducted the nine-month investigation.

The Connecticut couple offered to broker the deal, while the South Africans described themselves as arms manufacturers able to supply thousands of weapons without serial numbers, authorities said.

Michael Devlin, 40, his wife, Betsy, 38, both of New Canaan, Conn., and Syd Baker, 39, and Heinz Glucke, 45, both of

Johannesburg, South Africa, were charged with conspiring to violate the Anti-armor Act of 1986, which makes it a federal offence to do business with South African companies, and smuggling firearms, Milano said.

An agent first met with the wheelchair-bound Michael Devlin June 15, to discuss possible arms deals, said Ann Driscoll, a spokeswoman for US attorney Andrew Maloney.

Later, Devlin said he knew of South African arms manufacturers willing to sell thousands of 9mm semi-automatic weapons.

At a meeting Feb 27, the suspects and agents exchanged typed letters spelling out the conditions of the sale, Driscoll said.

The weapons were listed on the manifest as machine parts to get by customs agents at Kennedy International Airport, where they subsequently were collected by undercover agents, she said.

One South African was shot and wounded and another was arrested when they tried to hijack a chartered Soviet aircraft, transporting members of the rebel African National Congress from Angola to Tanzania, police and ANC sources said yesterday.

Berkeley riot anniversary ends in looting and violence

BERKELEY, California, May 20, (AP): People's Park, the scene of bloody confrontations between protesters and police in the 1960s, was a riot zone again today as about 1,000 people stormed through the area, looting and setting fires.

Berkeley police spokesman David Anderson said the violence erupted last night during a gathering to mark the 20th anniversary of 1960's activism in the

Californian town.

Police reinforcements were called in to restore order after several police officers and firemen were hurt in scuffles with the crowd. At least seven people were arrested.

"What started here tonight was something that began as a social protest but it quickly degenerated into just plain vandalism," said David Brooks, 19, a student at

the University of California at Berkeley.

The rally started peacefully about 10 pm and broke up about an hour later, but the crowd gathered again and smashed windows and looted about a dozen stores in the surrounding business district.

At least 50 police officers, some in riot gear, moved into the park as the crowd quickly swelled to about 1,000 and people

began setting piles of trash on fire, said Jon Kaiser, a spokesman for the university's campus police.

The university owns People's Park, which is four blocks from the campus.

Police had no immediate estimate on the amount of damage. There were no injuries. The identity of the person arrested was not immediately available.

Under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Co. launch sleek new Mercedes-Benz "SL" sports cars

A sleek new Mercedes-Benz SL two-seater convertible, recently unveiled at the 59th Geneva International Motor Show, was launched in Kuwait on May 20 at the Regency Palace Hotel. Kuwait is the second place in the world where the SL series is being shown.

The launch was held under the patronage of Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs and Labour H.E. Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah. It was attended by more than 400 elite guests including senior ministers, ambassadors, senior Kuwaiti officials, Mercedes-Benz clients and leading businessmen. The Deputy Chairman of Daimler-Benz AG, Prof. Dr. Dr. Werner Niefer has especially come to Kuwait to co-host this unique event with Mercedes-Benz general sales agents, Albisher & Alkazemi.

The 1989 models of the new SL series demonstrate Mercedes-Benz's leading position in technology and design, a legendary tradition begun in the 1950's with the 300 SL series.

The new SL-series will certainly create a stir and excite sports car enthusiasts in Kuwait and the Gulf. The new SL is sporty, powerful, competent and safe. At the recent Geneva Motor Show, the new car with a future-oriented design, was a crowd puller and one of the biggest attractions.

Before the official VIP Gala Presentation, top executives of Daimler-Benz AG and A.R. Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Co., addressed a press conference.

The press conference was attended by Prof. Dr. Dr. W. Niefer, Deputy Chairman of Daimler-Benz AG and Chairman-Designate of Mercedes-Benz AG (Prof. Niefer is due to take his new post from July 1989); Mr. J.K. Gorgels, Senior Director of the passenger car division; Mr. F.A. Wolf, Director for the Arab World, Far East and Africa in the passenger car division and Mr. H.P. Wittenauer, in charge of passenger car exports to Kuwait.

A.R. Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Co., were represented by Managing Director, Mr. Mohamed Albisher and General Manager, Mr. U.W. Danzer.

Prof. Dr. Dr. Werner Niefer told reporters that considerable time and effort has gone into the production of the new R 129 series. He said: "The roadsters of the new series demonstrate Mercedes-Benz leading position in technology and design." He stressed that Mercedes-Benz

continue to "offer a high, or even the highest standard of performance, safety and comfort to our customers."

"Our company has lived up to the most difficult and challenging task," he added.

Commenting on the sporty design of the new series, Prof. Dr. Dr. Niefer said: "It offers dynamic appearance, sportiness, comfort, elegance and exclusivity and is fully-packed with innovations, safety features and high power."

He said the car's design and workmanship details "import typical Mercedes attributes such as reliability, durability, sophistication and high values."

Prof. Dr. Dr. Niefer described the new SL-series as "manifestation of aesthetics."

Replying to a question about the SL-models that will be available in Kuwait, Mr. Gorgels said "Initially, two engines will be offered. The 300 SL-24 with a 3.0 litre inline six with four valves per cylinder and 231 hp; and the 500 SL with a 5.0 litre V8 (32 valves) engine with an output of 333 hp."

The new 300 SL and 500 SL model with four-valve per cylinder technology are all new and are the first Mercedes engines to offer camshaft adjustment. The system improves the cylinder's volumetric efficiency in higher torque and offers increased power at lower revs, Mr. Gorgels added.

Mr. F.A. Wolf commented on the SL-series' acceleration and performance. He said the 300 SL-24 accelerates from 0 - 100 Km/h in 8.2 seconds and tops out at 240 Km/h; the 500 SL runs from 0 - 100 Km/h in only 6.2 seconds.

"Daimler-Benz AG is especially proud of the new roll-over-bar in front of the soft-top's boot. If a sensor recognises a hazardous situation, the bar is extended in about 0.3 seconds. Fully-padded to protect passengers, the bar can also be released by pressing a button, Mr. Wolf added.

Prof. Niefer, commenting on design features, said "one of the most attractive features is undoubtedly the electronically operated soft top, controlled with millimetric accuracy by a sophisticated programme."

Prof. Niefer stressed that this was a prime example of "high technology

and pure enjoyment of the wheel in any weather."

Mr. Mohamed Albisher said the new SL sports series will be displayed during the German Week, from May 23-27, at the Regency Palace Hotel.

Mr. Albisher told reporters that a limited number of the new SL-series models is expected to be available in Kuwait by the end of the year. Mr. U.W. Danzer told reporters the new SL series will be put on sale from January 1990. He said the cost ranges between KD19,000 and KD24,000, depending on the model and options, and of course, future currency exchange rates.

In keeping with company policy and to provide the best after sales service, Albisher and Alkazemi, have already sent technicians for training at the parent company in Germany.

Prof. Dr. Dr. Niefer takes up the post of Mercedes-Benz Chairman from July 1, 1989. Replying to a question about the restructuring of the Daimler-Benz group, and his new post as chairman, Prof. Niefer said: "It was essential to carry out the appropriate re-organisation of the Daimler-Benz AG group to enable the company to fully utilise the potential of its various subsidiaries."

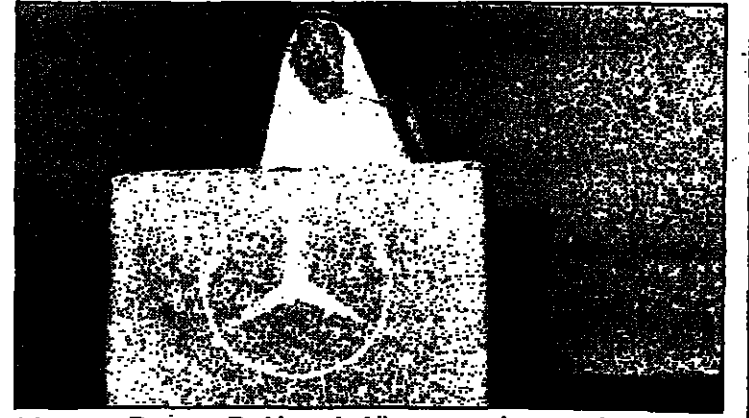
He said the company has now begun a new phase in its 100-year-old history. He predicted a bright future for the Mercedes company. He described the Mercedes-Benz company as "by far the strongest company among the group, which is now set to regain its stature as a purely automobile company."

In addition to Mercedes-Benz, the Daimler-Benz AG group subsidiaries are the German Aerospace AG, combining the activities of the Motoren-Und Turbinen-Union GmbH and the Daimler GmbH, and the AEG AG, devoted to electrical engineering, communications and sophisticated technology.

Prof. Dr. Niefer said the new structure of Daimler-Benz has paved the way for a brighter future for the group. He said: "We now have a clear-cut concept of the tasks that lie ahead. By restructuring, we have laid the foundations of our future strategy — and that means we will maintain our high standards and continue to live up to the 100 year traditions of the company."



Prof. Dr. Werner Niefer receiving H.E. Sheikh Nasser M. A. Al-Sabah



Managing Director, Dr. Nouri A. Alkazemi, welcoming the guests.



Close inspection of all new Mercedes-Benz sports car during yesterday's Gala presentation.



H.E. Sheikh Nasser M.A. Al-Sabah, Prof. Dr. W. Niefer and Hajji A.R. Albisher unveiling the all new Mercedes-Benz SL sports car.



Top executives of Daimler-Benz AG and A.R. Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Co. addressing the press conference.

Investigators smell something fishy in the Iowa blast

NORFOLK, Virginia, May 20, (UPI): The US Navy's investigation into a blast aboard the USS Iowa that killed 47 sailors now includes a criminal inquiry examining the possibility of foul play related to insurance policies, officials said yesterday.

Agents from the naval investigative service and the FBI have been aboard the Iowa in recent weeks as part of the

criminal inquiry, said Lient Cmdr. Craig Quigley, a navy spokesman in Washington.

Authorities are investigating an account that two crew members, one of whom died in the April 19 incident, had taken out life insurance policies more than a year ago naming each other as beneficiaries, a law enforcement source said.

Also, a local television station reported Friday that navy investigators are looking into the possibility powder bags used in the ship's No. 2 turret, where the blast occurred, may have been tampered with.

A sister of a sailor who died in the blast was quoted in yesterday's edition of the Virginia-Pilot in Norfolk that the two sailors' insurance policies were for

\$50,000, with a double-indemnity clause in case of accidental death.

The woman told the newspaper the beneficiary was one of 11 men inside the turret who survived the blast and agents have questioned the sailor. The woman, who asked that neither her name nor her brother's be used, told the Navy about the policies shortly after the accident.

Citing unidentified sources, Wavy-TV in Portsmouth, Virginia, reported yesterday that navy investigators have found evidence ammunition bags may have been tampered with. The evidence was reportedly discovered when remaining powder bags were off-loaded from the battleship earlier this month.

The station's sources did not specify

the exact nature of the possible tampering. The bags, which are used to fire the battleship 16-inch guns, are currently being analysed by military experts.

The Navy has said the powder bags being loaded into the gun breech burned, causing an initial explosion that sent a fireball through the turret, which set off two additional explosions during military exercises off Puerto Rico.

Embryo custody battle

MARYVILLE, Tennessee, May 20, (UPI): The judge who is to preside in a landmark battle over ownership of frozen human embryos is well aware of the comparisons being drawn with the 1925 Scopes trial.

On Aug. 7, Blount county circuit court judge W. Dale Young will begin hearing the divorce case of Junior and Mary See Davis of Maryville, about 13 miles (24 km) east of Knoxville.

As in the case of Edward Scopes, the Davis trial will deal with a major social issue. And as in that earlier time, much attention will focus on a small east Tennessee courtroom for a number of summer days.

The Davises had tried unsuccessfully to have children and finally turned to in vitro fertilization. The couple placed the fertilized eggs in frozen storage a little over a year ago at Fort Sanders Medical Centre in Knoxville.

Shortly after he filed for divorce, Davis got an injunction prohibiting his wife from having any of the seven embryos implanted in her body. Each is claiming ownership of the embryos.

Young first got interested in the law as a teenager watching circuit judge Sue K. Hicks in action. Hicks had been one of the prosecutors in the trial of Edward Scopes, a case that brought William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow to Dayton, Tenn., to argue the question of whether evolution should be taught in schools.

Early in his career, then assistant district attorney Dale Young tried a case in the Dayton courthouse in east Tennessee, where the Scopes trial took place.

As part of his preparations for the trial, Young has been reading about the Scopes trial.

Young concedes there is some pressure. The media from as far away as Europe and Australia have expressed an interest in the case.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico: About 30 fossilized dinosaur teeth found in New Mexico are estimated to be 220 million years old, meaning the creature was one of the first of its kind to inhabit the Earth.

Adrian Hunt, a doctoral candidate at the University of New Mexico, made the discoveries near Tucuman during four years of explorations for the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. He said Thursday the shape of the animal's teeth indicate it was one of the first dinosaurs of Earth.

He named the animal *Revueltosaurus* Callender, after the New Mexico museum's director, J. Callender. The first part of the name referred to a Spanish word for revolution, "revuelta."

The discoveries are discussed in a book published this week titled "Dawn of the Age of Dinosaurs in the American Southwest," edited by Hunt and museum paleontologist Spencer Lucas.

Their theory is that *Revueltosaurus* was the ancestor of all the plant-eating dinosaurs. It resembled a 10-foot-long (3-metre-long) lizard with 3-foot (1-metre) hind legs that permitted it to walk nearly upright. (AP)

LISBON: A Mozambican cut off the right ears of his wife and her lover after finding them in bed together, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported on yesterday from Maputo.

Quoting police, Lusa said 29-year-old Lucas Navele tied up the couple before hacking off their ears with a kitchen knife.

He was arrested. (Reuters)

WASHINGTON: The Federal Aviation Administration wants the power to ground pilots who are flying airplanes after having their motor vehicle licenses suspended or revoked for drunken driving. More than 10,000 licensed pilots have drunken driving records, but officials said they had not determined how many might be affected. The FAA last month announced it was cracking down on more than 1,000 pilots who had failed to report drunken driving actions.

Under a proposed rule published on Thursday, the FAA could deny an application or suspend a pilot's certificate if the individual's license is revoked or suspended for an offense involving alcohol or drugs twice within three years.

The rule-making follows concerns raised by the National Transportation Safety Board over pilots who were allowed to fly even though their automobile driver's license was suspended for drunken driving. The board has raised similar concerns over ship captains and others not under FAA jurisdiction. (AP)

NEW YORK: A United Nations agency established in 1945 to protect the "free exchange of ideas and knowledge" is threatening an American university press with legal action to block publication of a book tracing the agency's 40-year relationship with the United States.

The producers of the work, however, vowed on Thursday to publish in July despite the threats from UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

The United States and Britain withdrew from the Paris-based organisation in 1985, saying it had become an instrument of anti-American propaganda under the leadership of Amadou Mahtar Mbow of Senegal.

The book, "Hope and Folly: the United States and UNESCO, 1945-1985," was commissioned by UNESCO in October 1986 and a contract signed with New York's Institute for Media Analysis.

In late 1987, after completion of the manuscript, Mbow was replaced by Federico Mayor Zaragoza



Unsaintly look

CANNES, May 20, (UPI): Mickey Rourke created a sensation when he flew into Cannes from Brazil yesterday for the screening of Italian director Liliana Cavani's film "Francesco", in which he plays the part of St. Francis of Assisi.

"I do believe in God, I used to pray to just a particular saint. Now I say hello to St. Francis too," Rourke, a Roman Catholic, told a packed news conference.

But the American actor looked distinctly unsaintly dressed in a film jacket, dark glasses and a shirt open to the waist. He conceded he had found it difficult playing the role of the animal-loving saint.

"What was hard was doing a character that walks away from everything you seem to want, you know. He really only wanted a relationship with God. It was hard to put that in my head and go without certain things," he said.

Cavani, the director who produced "The Night Porter" and other decadent movies, already has been lambasted by the Italian press for casting an American actor to depict St. Francis.

In one scene that could shock devout Roman Catholics, Rourke is filmed rolling naked in the snow of his Umbrian town. But Rourke admitted he could not recall much about shooting that one.

"I was so drunk I do not remember," he said.

Rourke, a staunch supporter of a united Ireland, also disclosed he has given part of his fee for his performance in Francesco to Joe Docherty, an Irish guerrilla being held in jail in New York.

The most enjoyable part of making the film, he said, was working with Cavani.

"Liliana would not compromise and that's what turned me on about it," Rourke said.

Reporter looms too large in the movie

Mixed reception for 'Wired'

CANNES, May 20, (UPI): Critics gave a mixed reception to the world premiere of "Wired — the Life and Times of John Belushi" and some asked whether too much revolves around the part of investigative journalist Bob Woodward.

Woodward wrote a book about the late leader of the Blues Brothers that is the basis for the long-awaited film directed by Larry Peerce.

When the film was shown at Cannes, where it is not competing for a prize, some reviewers said they felt the Washington Post reporter, played by actor J.T. Walsh, looms too large in the movie, to the extent of overshadowing the tragic story of Belushi's drug habits and eventual death in 1982.

Woodward, 45, rejected the charges. "It was entirely appropriate," for him to be portrayed as part of the movie, he told a news conference.

Woodward joked that his portrayal in the film "reflects Hollywood's view of me as a compulsive, workaholic back-slabber, and I plead guilty."

"The film addresses the impossible question of why Belushi wanted to die, or allowed himself to die," he said.

language barriers, skin colour differences, cultural differences, when human beings get together with a common goal in mind — they can get that thing done, regardless of how difficult the conditions," he said.

"That's exactly what we wanted to prove to the world — that world powers like the Soviet Union and the United States can co-operate." (AP)

LONDON: Locks of hair from the heads of Mozart and Beethoven fetched a record £11,000 (\$17,700) at a London auction on Friday.

Sotheby's auction house said a London antique dealer bought a lock of Mozart's brown hair and Beethoven's grey hair encased in a single frame.

"This is certainly the highest price ever paid at an auction for a lock of anybody's hair," said Stephen Row, Sotheby's music expert. (Reuters)

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: Three British climbers were killed in a fall on Mount McKinley, the national park service said today.

Spokesman John Quinley said their bodies were found at the 15,000-foot (4,570-metre) level of North America's tallest peak shortly after noon Thursday. He said they apparently fell about 3,000 feet (910 metres).

Quinley identified the climbers as Chris Massey, 39, John Lang, 45, and Julian Dines, 37. He said Massey was the team leader.

The trio last was seen at the 18,000-foot (5,480-metre) level of the 20,320-foot (6,190-metre) peak Wednesday afternoon after a team of park rangers who were descending because of poor visibility and gusting winds. Quinley said the rangers were unable to persuade the British group to turn back.

Thursday morning, climbers at a medical research camp spotted the bodies at the bottom of a steep gully. (AP)

JOHANNESBURG: Soviet authorities have for the first time invited a South African rock musician to play in their country.

The Johannesburg Star newspaper reported on Friday that Warrick Sony had left for Moscow where he will take part in a rock concert called Africa to raise money for starving children in Africa.

Although Sony's band, The Kaleidoscope, have recorded four albums, they are little known in South Africa because state-run radio and television refuse to broadcast their politically controversial lyrics.

Their latest record is a tribute to murdered Beale

Woodward added that it was a miracle that the film had surfaced at all over fierce opposition from outraged Hollywood figures and the initial refusal of distributors to handle it.

"The reason a lot of people in Hollywood are unhappy with the movie is that it points a finger at them," Woodward said.

Woodward said that among others the film antagonized the huge US talent agency CAA, which let it be known that anyone distributing "Wired" would lose the services of the agency.

"The distributors walked away from several million dollars because they could not afford to make CAA unhappy," he said. "They needed the agency's talent. It is as simple as that."

Some critics at Cannes also said they found the surrealistic shooting and composition techniques used to re-create Belushi's cocaine experiences tiresome. But these scenes, in which Michael Chiles plays Belushi, are lightened by sequences from Blues Brothers concerts. Even if the film is not a technical masterpiece, its investigative yarn seems certain to draw big audiences.

John Lennon, called Bigger than Jesus.

The Soviet Music Festival on May 27 and 28 will involve 50 bands from Europe, Japan, Africa and the Soviet Union. (Reuters)

LONDON: Ministers from 19 European countries decided on Friday to launch a co-ordinated attack on the drugs trade and the laundering of its profits.

They ended a two-day meeting in London of the Council of Europe's anti-drug Pompidou group with a pledge to co-operate in tracing and seizing the profits of the narcotics trade despite constitutional obstacles in some countries.

The ministers said in a statement they would co-ordinate their fight against cocaine and its highly addictive derivative crack.

The drugs were flooding into Europe because North American markets were apparently saturated, they said. (Reuters)

SAN FRANCISCO: The Corporation for Public Broadcasting gave the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award Friday to Lee C. Lee, founder and president of Western Public Radio.

CPB board member Marshall Turner presented Lee with the 1989 award, one of radio's highest honours, in recognition for Lee's "outstanding contributions to public radio" at an awards luncheon during the annual public radio conference.

The Edward R. Murrow Award is named for the broadcast pioneer who achieved fame with his CBS radio broadcasts from London during World War II and his in-depth television news programme "See It Now" from 1951 to 1958.

Lee was cited for his development of WPR as a prime training centre for public broadcasters, with special emphasis on radio production training for women and minorities. (UPI)

NICOSIA: The West German embassy expressed surprise on Friday that a Turkish-Cypriot court convicted two women tourists of manslaughter for killing a man who had raped one of them.

Ute Leh, 48, and her daughter Melani, 20, from West Berlin, were sentenced on Monday in break-away north Cyprus. They could face a maximum penalty of 15 years after the court decided they acted out of revenge and not self-defence.

"We did not expect this verdict, but it is very difficult to comment on a verdict without knowing the sentence," said Wolfgang Meier, a spokesman for the embassy in the Greek-Cypriot controlled south of Cyprus. (Reuters)



Condor chick

A San Diego Wild Animal Park keeper holds Tovaresh, a California condor chick hatched at the park on Thursday. The 8.2 oz chick is the second hatched at the park this year and increases the world California condor population to 30, the highest level in 20 years. (Reuters wirephoto)

of Spain and UNESCO informed the institute that the agency "has decided that this manuscript should not be published." (Reuters)

LONDON: Darryl Roberts, the youngest person to walk to the North Pole, said Friday he wanted to inspire youths in city ghettos like the one in which he grew up to believe in themselves and accomplish their dreams.

Roberts, who suffered frostbite and blisters and was in pain for most of the 56-day journey, said he never thought of giving up. "I believe in the story — hoping that it will inspire them."

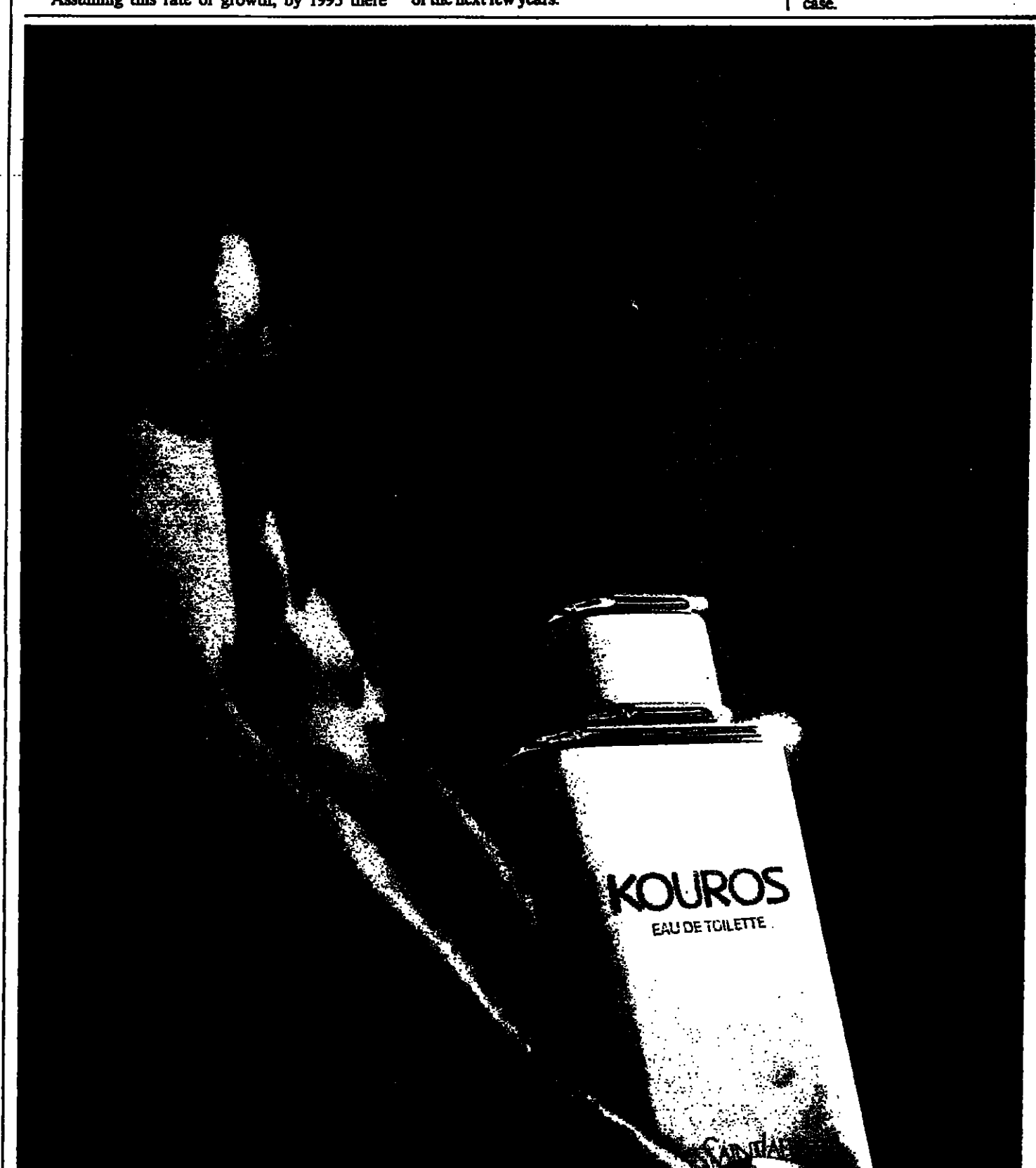
Five days after he set foot — or more appropriately skis — on the pole, the 23-year-old instructor in outdoor education was in balm London with other members of the eight-man Arctic team to meet Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The group walked 480 miles (774 kilometres) from Cape Adrich, the northeastern point in Canada, and encountered huge ice walls, numerous cracks in the ice and temperatures as low as -67 degrees Fahrenheit (-55 Celsius).

The message the team delivered to Thatcher is one that Roberts said he also wants to get across to US youngsters: The pollution dangers threatening the Arctic are symptomatic of environmental dangers throughout the world.

Wearing sandals because of a wound on his heel from blisters, and with a few patches of frostbite that turned his black skin pink, Roberts said he had learned many things from the first international walk to the North Pole.

"One of the things I learned is that regardless of



YVES SAINT LAURENT

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INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

50 die in crash

HUANCAYO, Peru, May 20, (AP): At least 50 are known dead after a bus fell 90 feet (30 metres) into a river in the Andes Mountains, police reported.

The bus, overloaded with an extra 15 passengers picked up along the way, had left Lima on a route taking it through winding mountain roads to the city of Huancaayo, 140 miles (225 kilometres) east of Lima.

Nelly Suarez, a bus passenger, said the accident occurred when the bus driver slammed on his brakes to avoid a pile of construction material blocking a bridge over the Mantaro River.

The bus swerved away from the bridge and down the river embankment and landed upside down in the water.

Wreck kills 14

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, May 20, (AP): At least 14 passengers were killed and ten injured in a bus accident today in central Yugoslavia, the national news agency Tanjug reported.

The accident occurred between Ivankograd and Sarajevo at 3:45 am (0145 GMT) when the bus went off the road, hit a rock, and was incinerated by fire, the report said.

Police have not yet determined the exact number of victims because the bus was so thoroughly burned, it said.

The tragedy was made worse after a 22-metre (70-foot) roadside railing pierced through the bus like a lance as it left the road, Tanjug said.

Six die in fire

SAUK VILLAGE, Illinois, May 20, (AP): Fire gutted a home in a Chicago suburb yesterday, killing a mother and five of her children all under age six, officials said.

"I saw flames coming out of the bedroom window and the front door just fell right off," said a neighbour, Kelly McNamara. "It was an aluminum door and it just melted right off."

The mother and two boys were found dead on the floor of the living room in their modest four-bedroom frame home, said Police Chief James Wade. Three other children, found in a bedroom in the centre of the house, suffered severe smoke inhalation and were pronounced dead at a hospital, Wade said.

US jet crashes

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Illinois, May 20, (UPI): A Navy T-2 jet crashed yesterday near Scott Air Force Base on a training flight, but its two crew members ejected before it went down and were taken to a hospital, Air Force officials said.

The two-seater jet went down in a farmer's field at 11:16 am about 6 miles (10 km) east of the base, said Staff Sgt Clark Brown.

The two fliers were taken to the medical centre at the base and were in stable condition, said Staff Sgt Jerry Anderson.

The jet was on a training flight from Kingsville Naval Air Station in Texas to Scott and was trying to land after an in-flight emergency had been declared, he said.

Copters damaged

WASHINGTON, May 20, (AP): A storm at Fort Hood, Texas, last weekend caused at least \$600 million in damage, the Army said yesterday.

The Army, releasing a preliminary damage estimate, said repairs to almost 200 helicopters will cost an estimated \$585 million and repairs to buildings and other facilities an estimated \$15 million.

The storm, with winds of 95 miles (150 kilometres) an hour, ravaged the area May 13. Although there were no fatalities, the storm forced 25 military families from their quarters and damaged about 200 military helicopters and at least 20 per cent of the fort's buildings.

Mud slides kill 37

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, May 20, (AP): The death toll in mudslides in the northeastern city of Salvador has risen to 37 after a new slide swept down a hillside and engulfed a motel, officials said.

The disaster occurred in the city's poor Lobato district yesterday morning when a hillside gave way under driving rains and smothered the two-story building, Col Antonio da Silva Carrilho of the fire department told the AP by phone from the coastal city of 1.8 million people 1,055 miles (1,700 kilometres) northeast of Rio de Janeiro.

The wave of mud blasted through a concrete wall alongside the hotel and crushed a row of eight homes at the base of the hill, he said.

6,191 seek asylum

BERN, May 20, (AP): Asylum requests in Switzerland reached a record rate in the first four months of the year with 6,191 people applying, a government official said yesterday.

About 40 per cent of the applicants were Turks and 27 per cent Sri Lanka nationals, Peter Arbenz, the Swiss federal commissioner for refugees, told reporters.

The January-April total was triple the level of the same period in 1988. Last year, when a record 16,700 asylum seekers came to Switzerland, the 6,000 level was reached only in July.

The new inflow raised the number of pending asylum requests to more than 30,000 and up to 10,000 more could pile up by the end of this year, he said.

Shevardnadze found Bush's speech completely incomprehensible

MOSCOW, May 20, (AP): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze says he was amazed by the "old ideological film" on US President George Bush's address on US-Soviet relations — the first official Soviet reaction to the week-old speech.

Shevardnadze's comments were published yesterday in an interview with the Communist Party newspaper Pravda.

"The speech of President Bush... amazed me with its tone, I would even say with its somehow old ideological film and in places with its didactic inclination," he said.

Brezhnev had to be pushed to topple Khrushchev

MOSCOW, May 20, (Reuters): Kremlin colleagues dragged a trembling Leonid Brezhnev to the telephone to make the call which led to him toppling Nikita Khrushchev as Soviet leader in 1964, according to a former KGB chief.

In an interview with the weekly Argument I Fakti published yesterday Vladimir Semichastny, who headed the KGB state security service from 1961 to 1967 gave an intriguing insight into the coup which ousted Khrushchev.

Semichastny said what he called the "necessity to remove Khrushchev" began to be talked about in the spring of 1964. There had been previous attempts to remove him but he gave no details.

The initiative came from Brezhnev and Nikolai Podgorny, both members of the ruling Communist Party central committee presidium, which later reverted to its earlier title politburo.

Alexei Kosygin, who was to take over as prime minister after the ousting of Khrushchev, agreed to

join them only after being assured that the KGB was in on the plot, he said.

But even then Brezhnev was nervous about starting the chain of events which led to the October presidium meeting at which the other members of the leadership ganged up against Khrushchev.

"While Khrushchev was away on holiday in October all the members of the presidium of the central committee got together at the Brezhnev residence and it was decided to summon Khrush-

chev back from Pitsunda (on the Black Sea coast) to Moscow," he said.

"We decided to telephone him. Who should do it? Brezhnev of course. It took us great effort to persuade him. We dragged him, almost by force, to the telephone."

"This voice trembling, Brezhnev told Khrushchev the presidium would meet the next day to discuss a range of questions concerning the seven-year plan," Semichastny said.

Belgian politician beaten in Romania

BRUSSELS, May 20, (AP): The Belgian government said yesterday it is recalling its ambassador to Romania after a leading Belgian politician was allegedly beaten by police when he tried to meet with a Romanian dissident.

Gerard Deprez, chairman of the Belgian Christian Democratic Party and a member of

the European Parliament, tried twice on Thursday evening to meet in Cluj, in Romania, with Donia Cornea, a leading Romanian dissident who is under virtual house arrest, said spokesmen for Deprez.

The fate of Cornea, who has been harassed for a year by Romanian authorities, was

widely publicised in the West last year by Belgian television.

Deprez was first stopped from meeting with Cornea by a dozen plainclothes security agents, the party officials said. When he tried to meet with her a second time, he was beaten by security police, who took his money, they said.



Home-coming

The Red Army withdrew a second unit of 54 T-64 tanks and 600 soldiers yesterday from Sarbogard base in a colourful ceremony punctuated by a Soviet soldier singing a patriotic song in Hungarian.

The Soviets pulled out 31 tanks from Kiskunhalasz base in southern Hungary on April 25, the first step in a partial Soviet withdrawal from Eastern Europe announced by President Mikhail Gorbachev last December. In the picture a Soviet soldier from the 144th tank regiment stands guard with a rose in the barrel of his AK47 as tanks start leaving for their journey back home. (Reuters wirephoto)

Panama bans all demonstrations

15 guards released

PANAMA CITY, May 20, (UPI): The government yesterday banned all public demonstrations and released 15 Panamanians working as US embassy guards who were arrested earlier in the week.

A decree issued by the Justice Ministry in the afternoon prohibited "marches, meetings, public demonstrations and automobile caravans" until a special mission from the Organisation of American States reports on the political situation in Panama.

The OAS mission is expected to arrive in Panama City next week. The government said it was banning protests in order to comply with a paragraph of an OAS resolution that calls on political forces in Panama to refrain from activities that might aggravate the crisis.

The OAS Wednesday said its delegation would seek a peaceful transfer of power from the regime controlled by Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega to democratically elected leaders.

New probe into Iran-Contra affair opposed

Honduras received extra aid

WASHINGTON, May 20, (UPI): The chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee said yesterday he opposed a new, "major" Iran-Contra investigation and so far has seen no reason to explore the biggest scandal of the Reagan presidency again.

Senator David Boren said he favoured limiting any inquiry to discovering why some documents bearing on the scandal that were disclosed during Oliver North's trial were not made available to congressional investigators or turned over in different form.

Some of the documents withheld from congressional committees that held major investigations in 1987 suggested the United States provided extra aid to Honduras in exchange for that nation's help to rebels.

President Bush, at the May 4 conclusion of the North trial, vehemently denied that he carried the offer to Honduras on a February 1983 trip while he was vice-president, also implied by the documents.

The 1987 congressional committees found a complex plan, with North as the key operator, under which the administration sold arms to Iran and then funnelled the proceeds to the Contras at a time when Congress banned official aid.

In a statement, Boren said, "Congress has many other problems to confront. The Iran-Contra matter is now appropriately in the courts."

North was convicted on May 4 of three felonies arising from the



Save Amazon

SYDNEY, May 20, (AP): British rock star Sting (above left) arrived today with a Brazilian Indian chief (above right) as part of a worldwide campaign to save the Amazon rain forest.

"The purpose of this tour is to get everyone involved — from housewives to taxi drivers, children, everyone," said the musician, who is on the last leg of a tour of 13 countries including Japan, West Germany, Britain and the United States.

scandal.

With the exception of finding out why the documents were withheld — at the request of Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell — Boren said, "I would personally be opposed to reopening the investigation on a major scale and have to this point seen no evidence, which would justify

it."

At the end of Baker's two-day visit on May 11, both sides said the new US administration had gotten off to a good start in its relationship with the Soviet Union.

Still, Shevardnadze added that he found some "correct, positive thoughts" in the statements of Bush and Secretary of State James Baker III, who visited Moscow last week.

And he added, "we will judge US policies not by their words, but by their deeds."

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Mitterrand, Bush open summit in Maine

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, May 20, (Reuters): President Bush welcomed French President Francois Mitterrand to his New England vacation home today for an overnight visit and talks centring on a NATO row over short-range nuclear missiles.

Mitterrand, accompanied by his wife Danielle, travelled to Bush's seaside estate by helicopter after arriving by plane from Canada at a nearby Air Force base. Bush and his wife Barbara greeted them with handshakes and embraces.

The two leaders planned several hours of meetings and a working lunch with their top advisers.

While there was no fixed agenda for their informal summit, US and French officials said the dispute within the Western alliance over whether to agree to short-range nuclear missile (SNF) negotiations with the Soviet Union would be a prime topic of discussion.

Led by West Germany, nearly half of the 16 countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation are pressing for SNF talks. The United States and Britain oppose such a move, contending that NATO needs the missiles to offset the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact's vast superiority in conventional arms.

Washington and London also say NATO must stick to a commitment to modernise its ageing arsenal of Lance missiles, which have a range of less than 300 miles (500 km).

Mitterrand, who generally supports the US position on SNF negotiations but who sides with West Germany in saying the missile modernisation question can be deferred, planned to urge Bush to agree to a compromise to keep the SNF controversy from disrupting the May 29-30 NATO summit in Brussels, the French newspaper Le Monde reported yesterday.

US Secretary of State James Baker, a participant in the meeting here, met West German Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg in Washington yesterday amid reports that a solution to the dispute was near.

But a senior administration official told reporters afterwards: "At this time, there is no agreement."

"The Germans gave Secretary Baker a proposal on the SNF issue. We made a number of changes and suggestions," said the official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified.

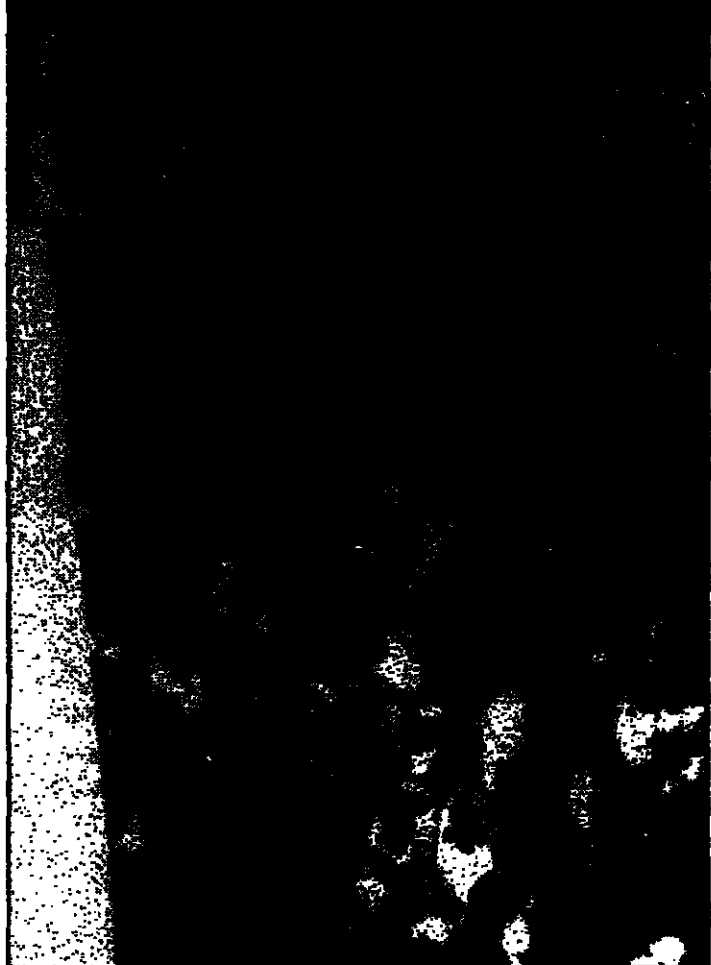
The United States was now awaiting a response from Bonn, the source said.

Bush, who invited Mitterrand to this picturesque Maine resort when they met in Tokyo last February at Emperor Hirohito's funeral, also planned to discuss the upcoming economic summit of leading industrial democracies with his French guest, officials said.

The annual meeting, which will bring together the leaders of the United States, France, Britain, West Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan, will take place in Paris on July 14-16.

The American and French presidents were to travel to Boston tomorrow where both were to address a Boston University graduation ceremony.

White House officials said the theme of Bush's speech would be the future of the NATO alliance, which this year is celebrating its 40th anniversary.



Mourners gather at Tbilisi Medical Institute on Friday, to mark the 40th day of civil unrest in the region. It was a day officially recognised by the authorities to honour those who died during demonstrations on April 9. (Reuters wirephoto)

Georgians rally through Tbilisi

Armenian protests continue

MOSCOW, May 20, (AP): Thousands of Georgians marched through the streets of the republic's capital Tbilisi yesterday in a memorial procession for a score of people who died last month in a clash between protesters and soldiers.

A dissident arrested the day of the clash, who was released from prison on Thursday pending trial, charged that children in several schools had been poisoned by gas that appeared similar to that used against the demonstrators April 9.

The poisonings caused "a great panic in the city," said Zviad Gamsakhurdia in a telephone interview from Tbilisi.

Gamsakhurdia was among the organisers of the protest, and was arrested the same day that soldiers broke it up. He said he faces charges of violating social order by organising protests from last September through April, and if convicted faces up to three years in prison.

Yuri Goldadze, an editor of the official Gruzinform news agency, said in a telephone interview that "many thousands" of people took part in the march of about six

kilometres (3.5 miles) from the city's medical institute to the Sion church in Tbilisi's old town.

The march ended with a requiem service. It was held on the 40th day after the clash, a day of religious significance in the Georgian Orthodox faith.

The nation-wide evening television news programme Vremya showed a brief report on the march, including streets filled with people and black-clad mourners crying and holding portraits of the dead. Young men carried black flags of mourning and Georgian national flags in the march, and raised clenched fists during a moment of silence.

Meanwhile several hundred schoolchildren demonstrated in the Armenian capital today as protests continued over the disputed Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh despite apparent concessions by the Kremlin.

Journalists from the Armenian news agency Armenpress told Reuters that the children, demanding the transfer of the mountainous region to Armenia, gathered in the centre of Yerevan.

'Criminal activity'

81 infected with AIDS

MOSCOW, May 20, (Reuters): At least 81 children have been infected with the AIDS virus after being treated in two Russian hospitals as a result of what a senior official called the "criminal activity" of medical staff. Tass said today.

Nikolai Trutkin, a deputy prime minister of the Russian federation, said the government's anti-epidemic commission had been told 67 people, including 58 children, had been reported infected in the southern Russian city of Elista — most of them apparently after hospital treatment.

Another 23 children and one adult had been infected in the city of Volgograd.

According to Soviet press reports the children in Elista, all aged around two, were infected with the virus last year after being injected with contaminated syringes. Some passed it on to their mothers.

It was not clear if any of the victims had developed the disease.

Another 23 children and one adult had been infected in the city of Volgograd.

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Rally for sacked Soviet prober

MOSCOW, May 20, (Agencies): Thousands of Muscovites rallied to the support of a sacked corruption investigator and his team probing the activities of Kremlin officials, including politburo conservative Yegor Ligachev.

About 4,000 people gathered in a Moscow street yesterday to hear appeals for an end to high-level suppression of the corruption probe and the reinstatement of Yegor Gdlyan, who had led it until he was sacked on May 4.

The official news agency Tass in the evening confirmed Gdlyan had been removed as head of the probe that began in the central Asian republic of Uzbekistan six years ago.

One of the Gdlyan's co-investigators, Yuri Luchinsky, told the crowd the KGB security police were helping to cover-up bribes paid to top officials.

Luchinsky said the KGB was spiriting recently-arrested Uzbekistan officials out of Moscow's Lefortovo prison and "brainwashing" them into retracting confessions that they had bribed top officials.

He declined to identify the bribe-takers but said they had been named by Nikolai Ivanov, another investigator who last week alleged Ligachev had figured in the case.

He also named former politburo members Mikhail Solomentsev and Grigory Romanov, and former Supreme Court judge Vladimir Terebilov. Ligachev and Solomentsev have denied any wrongdoing and the others have not commented.

A top-level commission yesterday found evidence of "gross violations" of law by Gdlyan and Ivanov and turned them over to the national prosecutor's office for investigation.

The report by a commission that included Minister of Justice Alexander Sukharev and KGB chief Vladimir Kruchkov brought to a head the dispute that started a week ago.

De Mita irresponsible charge partners

ROME, May 20, (Reuters): Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita has resigned after 13 months in office and his junior coalition partners accused him of acting irresponsibly to plunge Italy into its latest political crisis.

Iran panel favours scrapping premier's post

NICOSIA, May 20, (AP): A 20-man committee appointed by Ayatollah Khomeini to amend Iran's constitution favours scrapping the post of prime minister to give the presidency more executive powers, the Tehran Times reported today.

However, the English-language daily said in an editorial that eliminating the premiership "may solve the problem of management weakness and lack of decisiveness, but only for a short time."

It urged some form of monitoring system "to oversee the executive branch's performance," and warned that failure to do so would mean the presidency would accumulate so much power it could "threaten democratic norms."

The daily stressed that it would be a mistake to leave constitutional checks and balances to "the

people alone." It said that arguments by supporters of bolstering the presidency that the electorate would not vote in a dictator "is simplistic."

The Tehran Times editorial was reported by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia.

The editorial was published against a backdrop of political upheaval in which revolutionary radicals, who favour tight state control of the economy, are locked in a power struggle with so-called pragmatists seeking more free enterprise and links with the West.

That confrontation deepened last month with the forced resignation of Khomeini's designated successor, Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Montazeri for his criticism of Khomeini's policies and support for so-

called liberals.

With the question of who will govern Iran in the post-Khomeini era thrown wide open, the work of the constitutional committee has assumed critical political importance and triggered a swelling debate over the future leadership.

The pragmatists led by Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani are driving to bolster presidential powers at the expense of the premiership to eliminate competing power centres that have paralysed the decision-making process in Iran.

The comments by the Tehran Times, which often reflects the more liberal trend, did not say how big a majority on the constitutional committee favoured scrapping the premiership.

But the committee, which comprises key

religious, political and legal figures, appears weighted in Rafsanjani's favour.

Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi noted earlier this month: "Having a president and a prime minister has proved to be problematical all the time ... The problem will never be solved as long as both these offices exist."

Rafsanjani and his allies are opposed by Prime Minister Hussein Musavi and Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who wish to reduce the presidency to a largely ceremonial role.

Musavi, in a recent interview with Tehran's mass-circulation Etefaat daily, warned against increasing presidential powers and noted: "We must make efforts ... to prevent any turn toward a despotic government."

Aid to mujahedeen continues

Risk of war with Pakistan

KABUL, May 20, (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah said today there is a growing risk of war with Pakistan and Afghanistan should mobilise to face a possible invasion.

He said that despite the Soviet military withdrawal, Pakistani help for Afghan mujahedeen rebels is growing and it could lead to a full-scale conflict with Islamabad.

In an 80-minute address to delegates from around the country, Najibullah said Kabul could call on full Soviet support to face any aggression.

He threatened to blast Afghan rebel bases inside Pakistan with long-range rockets if Pakistani troops intervened and said Afghanistan should mobilise to face this threat.

Najibullah, 42-year-old former head of the Afghan secret police, said Kabul wanted peace and national reconciliation but past offers had been rebuffed.

He offered a new ceasefire in the nine-year war with Muslim rebel forces and said he would quit if it would help create conditions for a political settlement in the rugged, landlocked country.

Laying out a plan for reconciliation between the warring groups based on nationwide elections leading to a new government, he repeated suggestions for an international conference to secure Afghanistan as a neutral and non-aligned state.

Addressing the opening session of the Loya Jirga, a 720-member assembly of provincial delegates, tribal elders and government ministers as well as representatives of worker and peasant groups, the Soviet-backed President said they should set up a special mediatory commission to talk with rebel organisations and supporters of the exiled former King Zahir Shah.

The two-day assembly will also decide on whether to extend the state of emergency, declared after the February withdrawal of



Najibullah: mobilisation

Soviet forces.

Najibullah said that despite a series of peace proposals by Kabul, Pakistan was supplying rebels near the besieged city of Jalalabad, east of Kabul, with American weapons ferried into Afghanistan by helicopter.

He said Pakistani intelligence services had provided the tactical blueprint for rebel offensives against key Afghan cities following the Soviet pullout.

He said two Pakistani Army divisions were providing support for the rebels around Jalalabad, which has been under siege since early March. Pakistan has denied that its military is helping the rebels.

Afghan authorities said yesterday they repelled a "severe attack" by rebels on the eastern garrison town of Khost near the Pakistan border.

Army artillery and air force bombing neutralised the assault on the town on Thursday, the official Kabul Radio said.

It was the second time in a week that the authorities had reported repelling a rebel assault on Khost. On Monday they said their troops killed more than 700 rebels.

The radio said two commanders were among 30 rebels killed in Thursday's attack. Two civilians were killed and five wounded.

Israelis executed activist: Amnesty

LONDON, May 20, (AP): Amnesty International said yesterday witnesses have alleged that Israeli soldiers executed a Palestinian activist in a West Bank village in February.

The human rights organisation called on Israeli authorities to investigate the alleged killing of Atwah Lutfi Umar Hirzallah, 26, in the village of Deir Abziye near Ramallah.

The group said the Jerusalem Post quoted unidentified Israeli military sources on March 1 as saying a group of people trying to block a road hurled rocks at a military patrol and that soldiers opened fire, killing Atwah Hirzallah, because they feared their lives were endangered.

But Amnesty International said witnesses said in sworn testimonies that Atwah Hirzallah and some companions were stopped by two soldiers while returning from a neighbouring village.

One soldier turned a flashlight on them, then focused it on Atwah Hirzallah, and the other soldier then shot him with an M16 rifle at almost point-blank range, the witnesses reportedly said.

The soldiers told the others to sit on the ground and villagers later were allowed to take the victim to Ramallah Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, the statement said. It said the victim's family was ordered to bury the body within hours.

Zero-growth budget for WHO

GENEVA, May 20, (AP): The World Health Organisation, having skirted a US threat to cut off funding over the issue of Palestinian membership, ended its annual assembly yesterday after improving a zero-growth budget of \$654 million for 1990-91.

The 166-nation UN agency's meeting unanimously backed the budget, which WHO expects to supplement with some \$700 million in voluntary contributions over the two-year period.

Voluntary funding outstripped the regular budget for the first time during the current 1988-89 period, a WHO statement said.

In a two-week session, the 42nd WHO assembly approved guidelines for its campaigns against tobacco consumption, which is rising in developing countries, and for the global eradication of polio by the year 2000.

The meeting called for "appropriate measures" by states to prevent trafficking in human organs, warned against relaxing the fight against malaria and urged more help for the poorest countries.

Israeli peace plan is promising, says US

Split on approach to initiative

WASHINGTON, May 20, (Reuters): The State Department said yesterday an Israeli peace initiative had "promising possibilities" but stopped short of the wholehearted endorsement Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said he won from Secretary of State James Baker.

The comments appeared to suggest a split between Washington and its close ally over how to approach the initiative, approved by the Israeli cabinet last weekend in an effort to revive the Middle East peace process.

In an official statement, US spokesman Richard Boucher emphasised one element in the four-point Israeli initiative—proposed Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip—while Arens stressed as a first step a three-way summit among the United States, Israel and Egypt.

Also, while Arens urged Washington to take the lead in advancing the initiative, Boucher stressed the role of Israel and Palestinians, saying "the parties must bear the major responsibilities to ensure movement forward in the process."

Boucher dodged a specific US commitment to a three-way summit among the signatories of the Camp David accords which brought peace between Israel and Egypt in 1979.

At a breakfast meeting with reporters, Arens, who held talks with Baker on Thursday, insisted that the secretary "pledged his wholehearted support for the initiative."

Asked for comment, Boucher said it had "promising possibilities ... much work needs to be done, but this proposal is certainly a good start in the right direction."

He stressed the US view that "elections can provide the opportunity to launch a political negotiating process that for the first time involves Palestinians directly in every stage of the process."

The administration has embraced the election concept as a potentially critical vehicle for reducing regional tensions and leading eventually to direct Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The polls would choose Palestinians to negotiate with Israel an interim period of self-rule and then later, the final status of the occupied territories.

Arens urged the US not to focus now on election details, which are divisive in Israel, such as whether Arabs from East Jerusalem can participate in the polls and whether there will be international supervision.

But Boucher said US officials continue to discuss election "modalities" with all sides.

He also called on Israelis and Palestinians to "look for ways to contribute an atmosphere that will strengthen conditions for a political dialogue and negotiations for a comprehensive

Sharon heads for party showdown

Row over Shamir initiative

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 20, (Reuters): Hawkish Israeli Industry Minister Ariel Sharon is arming himself for a showdown with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that could end in a contest for leadership of the right-wing Likud Party.

Sharon did not attend Wednesday's parliamentary vote to approve Shamir's Middle East peace initiative, choosing instead to convene a meeting of fellow party hawks at this home in the heart of Arab East Jerusalem.

"None of us are opposed to a political initiative, but in our opinion this programme as it stands does not lead to peace nor



Sharon

peace."

In Jerusalem, a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday, Washington will not press Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to spell out details of his peace proposals while Shamir is still

trying to sell them to his Likud Party.

He said the US realised Likud could torpedo the Israeli plan for elections if Shamir were forced to make concessions demanded by Palestinians.

Sharon, a former Defence Minister and architect of Israel's bloody 1982 invasion of Lebanon, was one of three Likud ministers who voted against the plan when it was presented to the cabinet last week.

About half the Likud Knesset members stayed away from Wednesday's parliamentary vote which won approval by 43 votes to 15 with 11 abstentions.

Political sources say Sharon, 61, is keen to wrest the Likud leadership from Shamir, 73, and feels he can muster wide support for a revolt against the election plan, seen by many rightists as likely to pave the way to an independent Palestinian state.

He has called the party's central committee to debate the issue in what a television commentator called "a test of strength for Shamir in his own house."



Summit poster

A huge poster showing the five North African heads of state, surrounded by all the Arab flags, dominates the streets of Casablanca where the Arab summit will be held. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nerve-gas supply to Iran

S. Korean convicted

NEWARK, N.J. May 20, (Reuters): A South Korean-born businessman J.W. Yun was convicted today of conspiring to illegally export nerve-gas bombs to Iran but was acquitted on charges of actually carrying out the plot.

Yun faces five years in prison and could have faced another 10 years if convicted on the second charge.

A Short Hills, New Jersey, arms dealer, Yun was arrested on Jan 12 after conversations with a London arms merchant and an undercover US customs agent concerning the export of deadly sarin nerve-gas bombs to Iran.

Greece rejects US call for early extradition decision on Rashid

ATHENS, May 20, (AP): The government yesterday rejected a US call for a decision on the extradition of a suspected Palestinian terrorist to the United States before the June 18 elections in Greece.

"The government policy on the issue has been defined," government spokesman Sotiris Kostopoulos said. He was reacting to a US State Department statement on Thursday that called for Mohammed Rashid's extradition before the elections.

Rashid, 39, is accused of planting a bomb on a Pan Am jumbo jet in 1982. A Japanese teen-ager was killed and 15 other people were wounded in the blast over Hawaii.

Justice Minister Yiannis Skoularikis said on Tuesday that a post-election government will make the decision on whether to extradite Rashid.

Greece's Supreme Court on May 12 upheld an extradition order sought by the

United States. The final decision rests with the justice minister, who has a final say in all extradition cases.

American officials have described the extradition as a test of Greece's willingness to fight international terrorism.

"In any case Rashid can't be extradited before he serves the eight-month jail sentence handed down to him by a Piraeus court," Kostopoulos said.

Rashid, held since his arrest at Athens airport last May, was sentenced on March 28 on charges of attempting to escape. The charges came after a set of makeshift knives was found in his cell.

The PLO has argued that Rashid is in fact one Mohammed Hamdan, 34, an officer in its military branch. They have denied US charges that he is a terrorist and described the extradition request as a plot to discredit the PLO.

STOCKHOLM, May 20, (UPI): Swedish police yesterday demanded the remand of five of a group of 15 Arabs detained on suspicion of bomb attacks against the American carrier Northwest Orient and a synagogue in Denmark, a police spokesman said yesterday.

"The prosecutor has asked for the remand of two for the destruction in Copenhagen and three more for violence and armed robbery," the short communique said.

Remand proceedings were to be held in the several cases today.

A sixth man of Arab descent was also being held for illegal immigration after he was found in the country despite having been deported from Sweden in 1981.

The public prosecutor's office would not say yesterday whether the man would be charged with any crime or simply re-deported.

A Swedish police spokesman said earlier several members of the group were suspected of being affiliated to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, believed by US intelligence to be responsible for the Dec 1988

Lockerbie air disaster.

270 people were killed in that incident when a Pan-Am jet exploded in mid-air over the Scottish hamlet.

"They were brought in for questioning Thursday in connection with two bomb incidents in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1985 and other serious criminal activities," said Klas Ericsson of the Swedish police emergency centre.

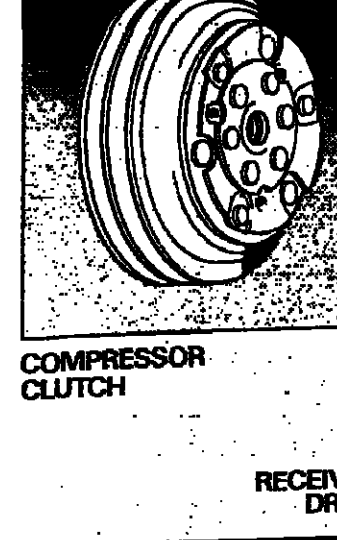
He added those detained were rounded up in the Swedish cities of Stockholm, Goteborg and Uppsala, and brought to Stockholm.

Police refused to say how many of those detained had been released yesterday.

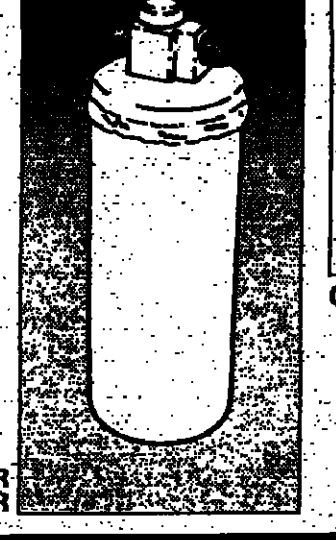
In the two almost simultaneous bomb explosions in Copenhagen on July 22, 1985 one person was killed and 27 injured. One explosion took place outside the office of the US airline Northwest Orient and the other in front of Copenhagen's synagogue.

Another unexploded bomb was found on the same day after witnesses had seen a man drop a bag in a canal in Copenhagen.

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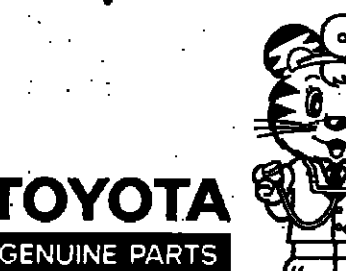
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SAFETY

FROM 20th MAY UP TO 29th JUNE '89	
LOCATION/WORKING HOURS	TEL. NOS.
Shurwaik Garage: 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM. Thursdays: 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM.	4839437, 4816933 4838255/56/57/58/59
Al-Rai Garage: 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM. 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM. Thursdays: 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM.	4718693, 4713622/26/ 30/32, 4713653/56/57, 4713661/63/65.
Al-Ahmadi Garage: 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM. 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM. Thursdays: 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM.	3981524, 3985290
Al-Ahmadi Spare Parts: 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM. 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM. Thursdays: 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM.	3981523
Shurwaik Spare Parts: 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM. 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Thursdays: 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM.	4816181/83, 4838255/56/57/58/59.

Foreign experts urge MEW to minimise risks



MEW Minister Hmoud Al Rqobah during the meeting with the experts

By Nirmala Janssen
Arab Times staff

A GROUP of foreign experts studying the causes of the recent power cut in Kuwait have urged authorities to "minimise the risk", according to a MEW source.

Experts from Britain, France and Japan, this week submitted their report to the ministry. The report recommends streamlining the distribution systems network; de-linkage of networks in case of an emergency.

The cause of the breakdown, both in December last year and April this year, was due to "signal jamming" at the main control

room, first in Doha West and then at Al Zour, he said.

The foreign experts had been invited by the MEW to study the causes of power breakdown after the second power cut in April.

Meanwhile, MEW Minister Hmoud Al Rqobah has said he will implement major changes in the power stations and networks.

Several engineers have been promoted to chief engineers, a source said.

Adequate

The ministry is taking the necessary measures to ensure adequate supply of electrical power during the summer season to

avoid any disruption in electricity, according to a local daily.

Additional power will be provided during this peak season particularly during the hours of 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm.

The ministry has conducted a study in this respect, of areas where electrical consumption is high during the summer and have particularly identified Al Jahra, Jleeb Al Shuyookh and Keitan areas.

The majority of Al Jahra based centre's technicians are expatriates, the daily quoted an official source at the MEW as saying who called for an increase in the number of Kuwaitis to be employed at the centre.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, May 20, (KUNA): HH the Amir this morning received Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, who took permission to leave for Casablanca to attend the Arab League summit conference scheduled for May 23-25.

Amiri cable

KUWAIT, May 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir sent a cable of congratulations to the President of Cameroon on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Sharhan departure

KUWAIT, May 20, (KUNA): Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Sharhan today left here for Paris heading a delegation to the 13th meeting of representatives of the International Union for Communications.

The meeting will take place in the city of Nice, France on May 23-30.

Pakistan embassy

THE Capital Development Authority has announced the opening of two new sectors in Islamabad, namely D-12 and E-12. Application forms and other details can be obtained from community welfare attaché, Pakistan embassy by Pakistanis wishing to apply. These plots will be allotted through a draw, the details of which will be announced by the CDA at a later stage, according to an embassy press release yesterday.

Statistical report

ABOUT 173,000 persons arrived or left Bahrain during the month of April via its airport, ports and the King Fahd Causeway. A statistical report said that about 125,000 or 73 per cent used the King Fahd Causeway. The statistics were released by the Immigration and Passports department.

The report added that 550 persons were found violating the immigration law.

WEATHER

NORMAL summer weather with light to moderate north-westerly wind.
State of sea: Slight to moderate
High water: 1:00 am, 12:00 pm
Low water: 6:00 am, 7:00 pm
Sunrise: 4:53 am
Sunset: 6:37 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 42°C (108°F)
Ahmad: 39°C (102°F)
Faiyaka: 39°C (102°F)
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 25°C (77°F)
Ahmad: 25°C (77°F)
Faiyaka: 25°C (77°F)
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 43°C (109°F)
Ahmad: 40°C (104°F)
Faiyaka: 40°C (104°F)
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 24 per cent
Ahmad: 23 per cent
Faiyaka: 40 per cent

Sabah to table developments in Lebanon

Contacts reviewed

KUWAIT, May 20, (KUNA): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad left here today for Casablanca, Morocco heading Kuwait's delegation to the Arab League summit conference scheduled to open later today to prepare for the extraordinary Arab summit on May 23-24.

Sheikh Sabah, who will also head a meeting for the six-man Arab League committee on Lebanon, told KUNA that he will draw up with the committee's meeting tomorrow morning a comprehensive report on outcome of its contacts and consultations with various parties concerned with the Lebanese crisis since the formation of the committee last January.

The Kuwaiti chief development, who is heading the committee, said that he will listen to an explanation from the Arab League representative, Assistant Secretary-General Lakhdar Al Ibrahim on results of his contacts in Beirut over the past few days.

He expressed belief that Ibrahim had scored successes in his latest mission. The Arab official will brief Sheikh Sabah on the results of his mission immediately on his arrival in Casablanca today from Damascus.

Asked about the reported proposal of including other Arab countries in the six-member committee, Sheikh Sabah said

that the Arab League decision in this connection was clear, namely that membership in the committee was not limited to the six countries.

He underlined that the latest Arab League council meeting in Tunis reaffirmed that membership was open to all Arab countries.

The current six members of the committee are Kuwait, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Algeria and Jordan in addition to the Arab League Secretary-General.

Shifting to the Arab foreign ministers conference, he said that it will prepare the agenda of the extraordinary summit, pointing out that topping the list was the Palestine cause, the Lebanon problem and developments of the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations.

Asked on reports that the Arab summit will seek to develop the Arab Middle East peace plan endorsed by the Fez summit in 1982, Sheikh Sabah said that it was up to the Arab leaders to decide.

The deputy premier and foreign minister is heading an official delegation comprising among others the head of the Arab Nation Department at the Foreign Ministry Abdul Hamid Al Bualjan, special representative of the committee chairman and Kuwait's Ambassador to Syria Ahmad Abdul Aziz.

West wants Arab summit to back Arafat — See page 5

Information co-operation

Kuwait-Libya talks start

KUWAIT, May 20, (KUNA): Libyan-Kuwaiti talks started here today to boost bilateral information co-operation between the two sides. The Kuwaiti delegation was headed by Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah in addition to Information Under-Secretary Abdul Aziz Jaffar, Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture Arts and Letters Dr Farouk Al Omar, Deputy Director-General of Kuwait News Agency Ahmad Dashed and other senior officials.

The Libyan side was headed by Minister of Information and Culture Dr Rajab Muflih Abu Dabous and other senior Libyan officials. Kuwaiti minister of information welcomed his Libyan guest and stressed that Kuwait is keen on boosting information and culture relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the Libyan secretary said that he and the accompanying delegation are happy to visit Kuwait. Dabous was quoted as saying that he had met His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad and conveyed the greetings of Libyan leader Moammar Qaddafi.

The Libyan official said that he is looking forward for continuation of bilateral co-operation between the two brotherly countries in the field of information and culture.

The Libyan official will continue his talks here till Monday. The minister was received on his arrival here by Kuwait's information minister along with other officials.

No negligence

Too many Caesareans

THE cause of death of lady patient at the Al Jahra Hospital is not attributed to negligence during the anaesthetic according to Dr Abdurouf Al Jawhary, director of the hospital.

Explaining, the official said that the patient died after she underwent a Caesarean operation and attributed the death to the lady already having undergone three Caesarean operations. Deaths during Caesarean operations are common in all hospitals all over the world he said.

Hundreds of thousands of patients have been treated at the hospital during the last ten years and the percentage of death is insignificant, Jawhary said.

The Ministry of Public Health arrange training courses for new doctors. These courses are sponsored by the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations in addition to training courses for doctors at clinics.

The hospital performs 50 surgical operations per day and the success percentage is well over 90 per cent. Jawhary called on citizens at Al Jahra Governorate to place more confidence and co-operate with the hospital's physicians and administration.



Norwegian reception

★ The Ambassador of Norway to Kuwait Hans Wilhelm Longva, and his wife Mrs. Annh Nga Longva, on Wednesday hosted a reception on the occasion of the Norwegian Constitution Day. A large number of diplomats and Kuwaiti officials attended the reception held at the SAS Hotel. Above: Longva greets Pakistani envoy Zahid Said. (Photo by Amer Jedit)

Low-cost operations

Soviet eye hospital ship to visit Kuwait

THE Soviet Floating Hospital well-known for its eye operations will be visiting Kuwait and the Gulf region towards the end of this year, according to reliable sources.

The vessel is currently dry docked at a West German port undergoing renovation for converting it into a first-class hotel equipped with all medical equipment. Renovations costs are estimated to be in the vicinity of 30 million Deutschmarks, said the commercial representative of the Soviet shipping company.

The ship is currently being prepared for a long voyage through the Black Sea and its first port of call will be the UAE sometime around October this year, to be followed by a visit to Kuwait, the representative was reported as saying in a local daily.

Negotiations are underway with competent Kuwaiti authorities to regulate the process of application and registration of patients and to co-ordinate with other officials issues relating to customs and anchorage procedures, the representative added.

1,515 houses distributed

ASSISTANT General Director for distribution, documentation and follow up affairs at the Public Authority for Housing, Fareed Mshari Al Ojail said that the authority distributed a total of 1,515 houses and plots to citizens as of the beginning of this year. He added that the authority will also distribute 2,961 houses and plots by the end of this year.

In an interview with a local daily, he pointed out that the authority will distribute a large number of housing units during this summer at different areas.

He said that the authority began distributing houses this year at Al Qurain residential project which has a total of 7,451 houses. These houses will be distributed among applicants who applied for houses during late 1981.

POLICE BEAT

Car thieves

By Fouzi Al Tamimi

POLICE from Fintas police station Thursday arrested two unemployed thieves for alleged auto-theft.

The suspects, non-Kuwaitis, identified as J.R. and B.K., confessed to having stolen a number of cars in the area.

The police station had earlier received several reports on stolen cars, and a police force assigned to follow them up successfully apprehended the suspects.

Liquor smugglers

ABDULLY security men have managed to foil an attempt by two Kuwaiti citizens to smuggle 70 bottles of liquor from Iraq hidden in fuel tanks of their cars.

Security men earlier suspected the two of smuggling and were on the alert for them.

Abduction charge

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a young man to seven years jail for abducting a girl below the age of 21 with the intention of marrying her.

The court heard that the man had earlier picked up the girl at one of the local markets and they dated and talked on the phone for over six months.

His attempts to wed her came unstuck as family traditions kept

them apart. Finally, they convinced to elope to Saudi Arabia where they hoped the Kuwaiti embassy would marry them.

The embassy had them extradited as the girl was below the legal age.

Manslaughter fine

THE Court of Appeal has amended a verdict issued by the Court of Misdemeanour finding a man charged with manslaughter KD200 instead of KD100.

The court heard that the man was driving his car over the speed limit when he hit a woman crossing the street causing her death.

The court based its ruling on two charges one for speeding and the other of manslaughter.

KD25,000 damages

THE criminal court has sentenced a man to pay KD25,000 to another who sustained 70 per cent physical disabilities as a result of traffic accident.

The court heard that the victim suffered from concussion, a fracture in the thigh bone, another fracture in the left leg which required an operation and the insertion of a metal joint.

The victim also lost an eye and was rendered impotent, according to a medical report, on the basis of which the court ordered the payment by the driver and his insuring company.

Night raids

Stray dogs attacking livestock

OWNERS of farms at Wafra and Abdally have said that hungry stray dogs attack everything that comes their way. They said that these animals come from nearby countries or for some other farms where owners do not provide them with food.

Jassem Mohammed Al Habsi, the owner of a farm in Abdally said that stray dog attacks are frequent — especially during the night. "They come from Magar city in Iraq and nothing can stop them from entering our farmlands because the area is large and we cannot fence our livestock," he added.

He added that it is possible that these dogs may attack humans. He called upon officials to eradicate this menace.

Another farmer, Jamsan Al Otaibi from Wafra farms said that they suffer from the speedy attacks of stray dogs which are difficult to stop. He added that the stray dogs have now begun to cause fear in both man and livestock.

Badr Mohammed Al Mtairi, a farmer in Abdally said that he was forced to move his livestock to Jahra because of stray dogs. He called on officials to take urgent remedial measures.

Meanwhile the head of laboratories and veterinary research department at the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth Dr Sami Ghalsh has said that the authority has built an incinerator for dead animals which is being operated experimentally.

Ghalsh said that in the past dead animals were taken to the municipality's incinerator but due to pressure on this facility and the sudden death of some animals necessitated the building of this incinerator which is considered a vital project.

He added that the authority's incinerator is the first of its kind and can accommodate big animals and work for many continuous days if necessary.

Sinatra films banned

KUWAIT, May 20, (KUNA): The Israeli Boycott Office here has blacklisted 12 movie films involving Columbia Pictures, Paramount Pictures Corporation, Cannon Group Incorporated and American actor Frank Sinatra.

The boycotted films are: For Keeps by Columbia Pictures, Road to Singapore, Dr No, Partners and The French Connection by Paramount Pictures Corporation, Faith by C.B.S. Records, Young At Heart, starring Frank Sinatra, Hannel and Gretel, Salts, Braddock, Missing in Action, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and Sleeping Beauty by Cannon Group Incorporated.

The office also withheld its boycott of the Greek ship Mavros which changed its name to Neptune under the Honduran flag and added Cypriot ship Sea Spirit to its list for repeated calls to Israeli ports.

The office approved the boycott of two Spanish companies: Immobiliaria Carciga S.A. and Parking Numancia S.A.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Court cases decrease

THE total number of all court cases in Bahrain during 1988 over the preceding year has shown a slight decrease according to official figures released exclusively to the Arab Times by the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs.

Statistics show that until the end of October 1988 a total of 15,584 cases were registered in the civil, shariah, criminal, traffic and minor courts — a reduction of 158 cases over the 1987 figure of 15,742 in the same courts.

The civil court headed the list of all cases with a total of 8,207 cases in 1988, a reduction of 368 cases over the previous year's figure of 8,575. However, the number of criminal cases which comes second in the list increased from 1,171 cases in 1987 to 3,437 in 1988.

Despite the substantial increase of visitors coming by car to Bahrain through the King Fahd Causeway and rise in the total number of all vehicles in the island (over 100,000), traffic offences, which come third in the list, remain surprisingly lower during 1988 with 2,740 cases compared to 2,880 cases over 1987.

The shariah court handled a total of 1,153 cases in 1988 over 1,141 in 1987. Finally, the minor court saw an increase in the number of cases from 35 in 1987 to 47 in 1988.

The number of new cases registered last year stands at 10,395 over 11,595 in the preceding year. The number of accused sentenced also saw a sharp decline from 10,968 to 10,608 during the same period.

Environment workshop

AN environment workshop, the first of its kind in the country, will be organised and financed by UNDP in Bahrain towards the end of the year.

The workshop, according to Shah, will be aimed at decision makers of about 50 per cent of personnel at government ministries. Participants will comprise of both local and international experts in specific environment fields.

Three specific topics will be discussed at the meeting: a) environment management and reinforcement of institutions that manage environment b) air pollution and c) environmental health.

The workshop is expected to propose recommendations for a national plan of action concerning the environment. It will also determine the future needs of international co-operation with Bahrain on the issue.

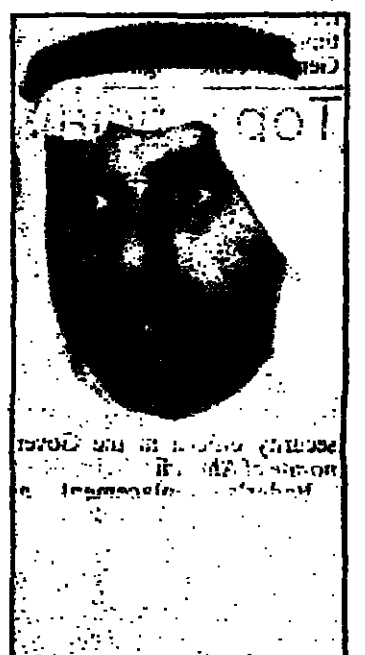
Social status of teachers boosted

ALL police centres of Ahmadi Governorate have been directed not to summon teachers either for investigations as defendants or to appear as witnesses without the approval of the director of Ahmadi Educational Area, according to Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem, Governor of Ahmadi.

These instructions are directed with the aim of respecting the social status of teachers and the educational process in general. "Any investigations approved by the director of Ahmadi Educational Area should be conducted after official school hours," the governor added.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Al Luqman director of Ahmadi Educational Area has called for an increase in the salaries paid to teachers to be commensurate with their standing in society and in keeping with their responsibilities.

An annual celebration to mark "teachers day" should be held to honour outstanding and hard working teachers, the official said in a statement to an internal magazine of Kuwait Teachers Society. Legislation should also be enacted to protect teachers against being attacked by students, he added.



Abdullah Al Luqman

The official referred early retirement of teachers to the Civil Service system that permits retirement at an early age, to the low salaries, numerous duties and a lack of appreciation and respect from members of society towards the teaching profession.

Awqaf meet

Call for monitoring anti-Islamic activity

JEDDAH, May 20, (KUNA): The fourth conference for Islamic countries Awqaf (endowments) and Islamic affairs ministers Friday called for forming a committee to monitor anti-Islamic activity and prepare a scientific response.

The ministers, at conclusion of their three-day meeting here, said that the committee should publish that response to highlight mistakes of such activity within and outside Islamic communities.

They also emphasised the importance of supporting the Palestinian uprising, describing such backing as an Islamic duty and called for bolstering the Palestinian state's institutions.

The ministers, in a final communique signed by representatives of the 45 Islamic countries, hailed the Afghan people's struggle and called for recognising the mujahideen's government.

The statement recommended allocating part of the Islamic resources in developing Islamic

communities through building hospitals, medical clinics, social institutions along with mosques.

It further recommended spreading the Arabic language in non-Arab Muslim countries in its capacity as the language of the Holy Quran and the adequate means of understanding Islamic teachings.

The conference stressed the importance of endorsing a speedy plan for Islamic daw'a (propagation) in its capacity as the basis of Islamic structure.

To ensure proper co-operation and coordination among the Islamic nations, the conference decided to form an executive council headed by the Saudi haj and awqaf minister to agree on minimum requirements of joint Islamic action.

The council, at the ministerial level, would group in its first three-year session Jordan, Indonesia, Gambia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt and Morocco and would meet once annually or whenever the need arises.

Special programme

Needs of all mosques fulfilled

UNDERSECRETARY of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Mohammed Naser Al Hamdan stressed that the ministry is keen to monitor the activities of mosques at different Kuwaiti locations. The ministry has extended all facilities for the upkeep of mosques.

In an interview with a local daily, he explained that the ministry has prepared a special programme to follow up requirements of mosques.

He pointed out that mosques in Kuwait undergo regular maintenance by concerned ministry sections. It ensures the safety of all equipment available at these mosques and cleanliness is of paramount importance.

Hamdan said that Kuwait mosques are dis-

tributed according to Kuwait's geographic requirements. Mosques at Kuwaiti areas are divided into groups and each of these groups has a superintendent who takes full responsibility for their affairs.

On the other hand, the assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for Haj and Mosques Affairs, Abdul Rahman Al Fares stressed that the ministry pays full attention to cleanliness inside mosques and cleanliness outside these mosques are the responsibility of other authorities.

He pointed out that a special notice board is hung at every mosque in Kuwait. Those who are interested in using these boards should obtain permission from the ministry.

TREASURY PROFESSIONALS

Saudi Arabia

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Applications must be sent by 28 May. Interviews will be conducted in Bahrain and Dubai in June.

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Policemen sacked for misconduct

Complaints welcomed

BRIGADIER Mohammed Al Gabandi, assistant under-secretary at the Ministry of Interior for police affairs has said that the ministry has discharged a number of officers and policemen proved to have violated their code-of-conduct.

Doors of officials of the ministry are open to hear any complaints from the public against policemen if they feel they have not been fairly treated, the official said.

He added that sometimes citizens commit mistakes and try to malign policemen.

"A policeman has no right to threaten expatriates with deportation. Deportation is the decision of the judiciary and other senior authorities," he said. Deportation is subject to many steps and procedures which are also reviewed by the Minister of Interior, he said.

Undermine

Brigadier Al Gabandi pointed out that anyone attempting to undermine the stability and security of the country will be deported. The co-operation of citizens and their response to preserve security has reduced the number of deported persons. He added that most deported persons fall in the category of violators of the residence law.

He added that the ministry is studying a draft law for police. The draft law offers two new ranks for officers for the first time which are Lieut General and General beside higher ranks for



Brigadier Al Gabandi

non-commissioned officers which are warrant officer and regimental sergeant major. The regimental sergeant majors can be promoted to officers after having special courses, he said.

He pointed out that the ministry usually develops its training policies in order to face all kinds of crime including the terrorist acts. The ministry is very proud of the training standard of the private forces. The members of private forces are selected according to certain specifications and conditions.

The official said that services and procedures at the border centres and airports will be developed. There is a special budget to provide them with latest equipments and buildings. Most of these centres have computer screens available which are connected with the computer centre of the ministry and the immigration department, he said.

Gabandi said that he is one of the members of the committee that drafted the present law of narcotics. He added that he was also one of the members who opposed the death sentence against those who smuggle or trade in narcotics except if the crime is the reason of death of the policemen, CID men or citizens. In this case, the criminal should be executed.

Implement

He added that countries which implement the death sentence on smugglers or traders of narcotics could not put an end to the narcotic problem. Narcotics in Kuwait are not considered a problem but a phenomenon.

Treatment of this phenomenon can begin from within the family. He added that the ministry seized about 65 kilos of hashish, 4.3 kilos of heroin, 9 kilos of opium and arrested 330 defendants during 1987. Last year officials seized 193 kilos of hashish, 5 kilos of heroin, 9 kilos of opium and arrested 313 defendants in these cases, he said.

Female accountant sets unique precedent

FOR the first time in the history of Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Society Rafia Abdulatif Al Asousi, a lady who is an accountant by profession has been nominated to contest for the society's position of chairman, according to an official of the society.

The polls will be conducted next Monday at the society's headquarters, Dr Sadeq Al Bassam, head of the society said. Bassam called for cancelling the examination required by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for accountants to be

approved as licenced auditors. He pointed out that the examination is unfair and very difficult. He added that a group of accredited accountants in the country monopolise the accounting profession and stand responsible for the difficulty of the examination.

The examination is made difficult to prevent Kuwaiti accountants from practicing the profession to avoid competition, he said. He said that there are credited accountants offices in Kuwait which account for over 95 per cent of government audit and accounting works.

Among the 421 society members, only 37 passed the examination and are licenced by the government to practice their profession, he said. He added that few persons passed the examination during the past five years. He described the situation as abnormal and said that the examination is inadequate for the accounting levels in Kuwait.

Bassam hinted that the examination questions are even tough on those who designed them. He called for a complete study of the situation and proposed presenting the Ministry of Commerce and

Industry with recommendations. He added that the level of the examination has limited the number of accountants in Kuwait and that this reflected on the general level of accounting in the country.

Bassam said that there are a number of major violations which have been committed and are now looked over by specialised committee at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. He called upon for the formation of a system to strengthen the profession and proposed a unification of accounting rules inside Kuwait.



Interior minister meeting

Minister of the Interior, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah received in his office this afternoon the US Ambassador to Kuwait Wilson Nathaniel Howell. Discussions dealt with bilateral relations and topics of mutual concern.

Kuwait tops Arab market for Daimler-Benz cars

By Nirmala Janssen

DAIMLER-BENZ AG sold around 7,000 Mercedes cars in the Arab world in 1988 (1.2 per cent of the total production) and Kuwait leads the way with nearly 2,000 sold, said Professor Werner Niefer, chairman designate of Mercedes Benz AG who is currently in Kuwait to launch the sleek new SL range of cars.

At a press conference held prior to the launching, under the patronage of Sheikh Nasser Al Sabah, minister of social affairs and labour, Dr Niefer said that Kuwait holds a big part of the equity of Daimler-Benz through the Kuwait Investment Authority but declined to give precise figures.

"I am particularly pleased that Daimler-Benz have found such considerable interest in Kuwait's dynamic investment strategy," Niefer added.

In a search for new future and profit-oriented business activities Daimler-Benz has

diversified into the field of aerospace, electronics as well as defence and production technology, Niefer said.

Under the umbrella of the Daimler-Benz holding there are now three independent corporations operating: the Mercedes Benz AG which is exclusively responsible for the automotive business, German Aerospace AG with the amalgamation of all air and space activities as well as defence technology; and the AEG AG with emphasis on electro engineering communications and production technology. Of the \$50 billion worth of business that Daimler-Benz does with the rest of the world only 6 per cent of their revenue comes from the German Aerospace Corporation, Niefer said.

This particular corporation has built propulsion systems for the Tornado fighter aircraft and MTU engines for tanks.

"We intend to be leaders in technology innovation quality and also in after-sales service," the chairman designate said.

Speaking of the new Mercedes Benz SL300 and SL500 Niefer said "our new companies have created the potential to build technology exacting, qualitatively superior and aesthetically fascinating vehicles. He also said that the new SL ranges are the best and the safest roadsters in the world and a trend-setter of innovative technology for future model generations."

The new SL sports series will be displayed during the 'German Week' from May 23-27 at the Regency Palace Hotel. The price tag of the new cars is expected to range between KD19,000 and KD24,000.

Also attending the conference were J.K. Gorgels senior director of the Passenger Car Division S.A. Wolf, director for the Arab world, Far East and Africa in the Passenger Car Division.

A.R. Albisher and Zaid Al Kazemi Company, the Kuwaiti agents for Mercedes Benz were represented by Managing Director Mohammed Albisher and General Manager U.W. Danzer.

Passport Department criticised

THE Passport Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Interior has a significant increase in activities during the present travel season. The complaints against the department's employees usually increase during this period.

A local daily toured the passport departments at the Ministry of Interior and asked the opinions of some citizens here.

Mohammed Hazza, criticised the bad service given by the employees at the Passport Department to the citizens, saying that passport formalities were delayed two or three weeks although each process needs only hour.

He added that the sympathy of the officials with the employees was the reason for the delay which has encouraged them to be sluggish.

Another citizen, Adel Al Rumaih was quoted as saying that the transactions were delayed although they do not need either a long time nor distinct effort, noting that there was a lack of employees. He called for putting the right man in the right place.

Rashed Al Meri, complained that the employee treats the citizen well only if he knows him. He criticised official leniency towards the employees saying that 90 per cent of them showed no care towards the citizens problems. He called the officials concerned to impose strict surveillance and to increase the number of employees.

Abdulaziz Abdul Razzak said that some employees were dealing politely with the public, while some others were ignoring them and failing to perform the transaction quickly.

Another citizen Saleh Bu Olayan said that most of the employees were good, but the rush during this season caused them to tire. He called for increasing of the employees at the department to meet the rush during the travel season.

Bingo winners



The winners of the Arab Times Bingo No 69 received their prizes yesterday. Top Master Asrar Ahmed (Third Full House), centre Babu Lal (Second Full House), and above Dias Ignatius P.C. (Top Line).

Top officials reshuffled

KUWAIT, May 20, (KUNA): Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah today reshuffled the nation's top security officials.

Sheikh Salem issued an executive order promoting Brigadier Naser Bader Al Bader as adviser to the minister of interior from his post as chief security official in the Governorate of Ahmadi.

Bader's replacement as Ahmadi's top security officer was Brigadier Fouad Mosaed Al Saleh, director general of the General Traffic Department, whose job is being taken over by Brigadier Abdul Hameed Al Hajj, the director general of Police and Emergency Communications.

Paralysed patient falls from hospital window

By Fathima Ahmed Arab Times staff

POLICE are investigating the death of a paralysed Kuwaiti patient who died after falling from the third floor of the Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital, according to sources.

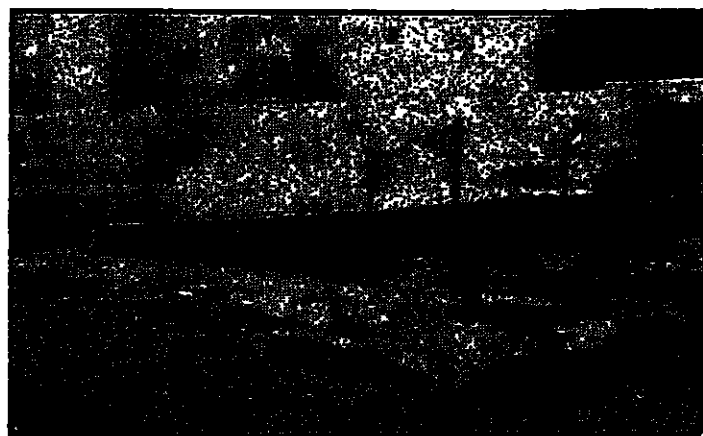
Sources said the patient, an accident victim who had suffered severe paralysis and brain damage, had been in the hospital for several months. He had recently recovered after two months in a coma.

In the past few weeks he could stand, supported by an attendant, who cared for him in the private room, and recognised his children who visited him, sources said. However, he was unable to communicate with them, he added.

On the day of the accident the attendant was not in the room, and the patient's hands and feet were not bound, sources said. The patient frequently fell from his bed and to prevent an accidental injury, he was tied down when an attendant was not present, he explained.



A sunshade damaged by the municipality.



One of the walls that was knocked down.

Municipality destroys Jahra gardens

By Nasheet Al Agha

CITIZENS at the Naseem area in Jahra were surprised on Wednesday evening to see tractors of Kuwait Municipality destroying the gardens in front of their houses. The tractors also destroyed the sunshades they built in front of their houses.

Al Seyassah learnt that gardens of 20 houses in the area were destroyed that day despite repeated appeals by citizens for a stay of demolition.

One affected citizen Abdullah Al Mallah has said that he obtained a licence from municipality for constructing a garden in front of his house, on condition that he built it ten metres from the main road. He added that he spent more than KD1,100 on the garden. He left 10-12 metres between the road and the fence of the garden in order not

to affect underground public services.

He said that he was amazed by action of municipality in destroying the garden of his house without previous notification.

He added that he visited the municipality to complain who told him that they had destroyed the gardens according to demand of the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

Another citizen Taleb Al Anzi described the destruction of gardens in front of houses as a work of recklessness. He also said that the municipality did not give them a previous notice. Most citizens in the area built sunshades and gardens in front of their houses. He added that his sunshade and garden had cost KD1,200. Another citizen Hadi Abdullah said that municipality men saw them establishing the garden and did not inform them that their work is illegal.

Higher education law finalised

AN official source said that the Minister of Higher Education, Dr Ali Al Shamlan has finalised the higher education law.

In a statement made to a local daily, the source added that Shamlan passed on the higher education law to Kuwait University and the General Authority for Applied Education and Training for their suggestions.

The Ministry of Higher Education will occupy its

new premises during the coming few weeks. The ministry has rented a new building located near Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science.

The source anticipated that the new structure of the Ministry of Higher Education will include the administrative affairs department, the financial affairs department, the educational scholarships department and the public relation department.

Iran to return

(Continued from Page 1)

But the Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Kuwait, Jawad Turkabadi said he has no idea of the whereabouts of the boat.

He said today: "This is not such an important incident, because it can happen in any part of the world."

He said he had relayed the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister's viewpoint to the Iranian government "and did not receive any reply so far."

He also said: "I have no idea of the boat's whereabouts. We did not receive any information from Iran that it is there (in Iran waters) or about the circumstances of its detention."

It was reported yesterday that the gunboat was held by Iran, and that Iranian authorities had released two Egyptian fishermen who were among the vessel's occupants, but were still holding six Kuwaiti crewmen.

Earlier, reports said the vessel developed engine problems May 9 and nearby Iraqi patrols had escorted it to their side of the waters for repairs.

Kuwaiti sources also said today that 42 Iranians apparently seeking work were caught trying to sneak into Kuwait by boat.

Sirens wailed later yesterday evening along the seashore in Salmiya as police rushed to round up the Iranians.

We extend our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved wife and family of



ALPHONSO PINTO

who expired on 20-5-1989
May His Soul Rest In Peace

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3. Excellent command of English and knowledge of Arabic is a plus

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 3. Good knowledge of English and preferably Arabic.
- Salaries for the above positions are commensurate with experience and qualifications. Application forms are available at the office of the Vice-Rector for Research Kuwait University - Khaldiya building 2K, between 9.00 - 12.00, last date for submission of application is 24/5/1989.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

EATING little and speaking little can never do harm —
Sir John Lubbock, English astronomer (1803-1865).

Soviet influence waning in Kabul

By Sharon Herbaugh

THE last Soviets in Afghanistan are a forlorn sight, hunkered down in their fortress-like embassy and complaining of waning influence even among the rulers their armed force sought to sustain.

At the height of the Red Army's nine-year involvement in Afghanistan, their presence was of imperial proportions. There were more than 115,000 troops and scores of political and military advisers.

Now there are fewer than 275 Soviets left in Afghanistan, and many are here to feed and sustain a small core of officials who have been left behind to try to salvage what they can of an adventure both countries would like to forget.

Having failed to win the war for the Marxist government, the Kremlin switched positions on Afghanistan to that of peacemaker.

"With the last of its troops gone from the country three months ago, Moscow has been beating the diplomatic bushes from Washington to Islamabad and Beijing, urging cutoffs of weapons to the rebels and the start of peace talks.

"We made mistakes; we don't deny this," said Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan and first deputy foreign minister. "Afghanistan needs a respite from this war. And we need to stop using arms and start pushing them to the negotiating table."

From the day the Soviet troops arrived in Afghanistan in December 1979, they were rarely comfortable. And animosity still bubbles around the markets of the capital.

Taxi drivers curse the battered Moskvich cars on Chicken Street, a thriving venue of carpet shops, antique shops and food stores selling Russian caviar and vodka. Afghan merchants speak of their hatred for the Soviets.

"We're glad they're gone," carpet dealer Mohammad Ghulam said as he washed his blue Mercedes in front of his shop. "They were not welcome here. Life has been better since they've left."

While government and military officials speak approvingly of the Soviets, there is a wariness, along with attempts to signal their distance.

"Let's be honest," said one Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Even though the Soviet Union gave us a lot of assistance, there aren't many Afghans who consider the Soviet Union as a friend."

On May 15, 1988, the Red Army began leaving Afghanistan under a UN-mediated accord signed a month earlier in Geneva. The withdrawal was completed on Feb 15.

The Soviets who remain in Kabul spend most of their time inside the embassy compound, a sprawling fortress on the city's west side.

The compound is surrounded by a high wall, double steel gates and remote-controlled television cameras. The front gate is supplemented by a zig-zagging pattern of concrete blocks. Afghan government soldiers stand guard in a wooden guardhouse and along the road outside, quickly pointing their kalashnikov automatic rifles at approaching visitors.

Inside, the offices along the marble floors of the corridors appear empty. Aside from contacts with Afghan government officials, the most pressing business seems to be meetings with a small group of Western reporters seeking frequent background briefings.

Over tea and bowls of nuts and raisins, they talk with candor about their situation and the tenacity of the Afghan military.

Soviet bombs and medium-range missiles are being used to defend Jalalabad, and a Soviet military aircraft is hauling in tons of food and weapons in as many as 50 transport planes every day.

But one senior Soviet official said it has been difficult getting the Soviets' points across to the Afghan.

"It's like trying to plant a tropical plant in Siberia," the official said, insisting on anonymity. (AP Kabul)

Mujahedeen divided

By H. Brandon

AN extraordinary game of conspiracy is currently being played out in Afghanistan and nobody is quite certain who will gain the upper-hand if indeed anybody will. Up to now the rebel forces, backed by Pakistan and American arms have been more or less in command. They deserve the main credit for having forced the Soviet forces to withdraw. They were relatively united as long as they had the Soviets as the common enemy. But now that the Soviets are gone and the guerrilla war has turned into a conventional one, firm leadership, discipline, unity and strategy are missing and sharp divisions have developed among the guerrillas.

On the other hand, the Najibullah regime which had been expected to crumble after the Soviet retreat, is displaying greater resilience and better leadership than had been assumed.

Pakistan is still backing the extreme fundamentalist factions among the mujahedeen forces; it is not surprising therefore that India is aiding President Najibullah. The Iranian Shiites who wanted 20 per cent of the seats in the Islamic Assembly were turned down by the Pakistani military and fundamentalists and are now either sitting on the sidelines or keeping in touch with the Kabul regime.

The Soviets are primarily interested in preventing the United States playing a role in Afghanistan, but they are not anymore anxious to preserve a communist regime in Kabul. Their interest is not anymore ideological but primarily aiming at achieving some sort of stability, and to that effect are seeking to act as mediators between Kabul and the moderate Islamic factions.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1471 — England's King Henry VI dies in Tower of London.
- 1650 — Scotsman James Graham, marquis of Montrose, is executed.
- 1813 — Indecisive battle of Bautzen, Germany, between France's Napoleon Bonaparte and armies of Prussia and Russia, ends with heavy losses on both sides.
- 1894 — Serbian constitution of 1869 is restored.
- 1927 — US aviator Charles A. Lindbergh reaches Paris, completing first solo airplane flight across Atlantic Ocean.
- 1944 — Allied forces break through Hitler line in Italy in World War II.
- 1956 — First hydrogen bomb is exploded by United States over Bikini Atoll in Pacific.
- 1964 — United States discloses that US planes are making reconnaissance flights over central Laos to gain information on communist forces.
- 1965 — Colombia government declares nation-wide state of siege following widespread student disorders.
- 1967 — More than 300 people perish in department store fire in Brussels, Belgium.
- 1970 — West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Willy Brandt and East Germany's Premier Willi Stoph hold second summit meeting, which ends in stalemate.
- 1974 — Thailand government resigns seven months after being swept into power by student rebellion that overthrew military regime.
- 1982 — British troops attack Argentine-held Falkland Islands, with British military saying it has established beachhead at Port San Carlos.
- 1983 — Five people are injured and several arrested when demonstrators protesting Nazi storm troopers reunion in Bad Hersfeld, West Germany, clash with neo-Nazis and riot police.
- 1984 — In Bombay, India, troops battle thousands of rioters in Hindu-Muslim violence that claimed 108 lives.
- 1988 — Soviet Communist Party dismisses party leaders in southern republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, where 32 people died in ethnic turmoil so far in 1988.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Brandon

US sceptical of Soviet motives

More proof needed on Gorbachev's goodness

FOR the first time I hear high American officials talk about the possibility of a withdrawal of American troops from Europe.

They say that there is a growing feeling in Europe in favour of such a withdrawal. The West German opposition to the American insistence that there be no negotiations about tactical nuclear weapons is also a contributing factor to a growing exasperation here with West German attitude.

In the past such talk originated in Congress and mostly to save money in the defence budget. But the talk among these high officials is not about money but about policy and politics. Since 300,000 American soldiers are exposed to the same threat from the Soviets as are West Germany's, then, logically, Bonn cannot object to the American government refusing to expose its own soldiers to a Soviet attack without the protection of tactical nuclear weapons.

Arguments

These arguments are illustrative of the depth of the crisis within NATO. While President Bush agrees that the Cold War is over, the Soviet threat is not being discounted here to the extent it seems to be among West Germans.

Secondly, Americans do not share the belief that allied air and sea power are a sufficient deterrent to ward off a Soviet military offensive, and, thirdly if tactical nuclear weapons were to explode on German soil they would hurt American soldiers as much as West German. The West thus finds itself in a situation when the former aggressor is now trying to act as the driving force of detente.

Having just returned from England and France, I sensed there a growing disbelief that the American government has the skill and diplomatic wherewithal to manage the transition from, to use President Bush's words, containment to helping to integrate the Soviet Union into the community of nations. The highest American officials are, indeed, very conscious of the difficulty of encouraging the Soviet Union to proceed with its unilateral arms reductions and, at the same time, maintain the kind of caution within the United States and the NATO alliance in case the Soviets reverse their current policy. Some Soviet officials have already said publicly that it could seriously hurt Mikhail Gorbachev if the US fails to respond to his policy of accommodation.

American policy-makers are asking themselves the key question: how do we retain what we have achieved in the past 40 years through building up our strength and through exercising perseverance and at the same time reach out to Gorbachev and encourage him to pursue his positive and dramatic objectives. They are also asking how best to cope with the rapidly shifting notion about the Soviet threat. So far the United States has not found a dramatic enough response to these questions.

President George Bush in a prepared speech at Texas A&M University laid down his policy toward the Soviet Union and in concept it is quite far-reaching. In terms of action it has been unconvincing. In effect, Bush is asking for more proof of Gorbachev's intentions for he says "promises are never enough," because "many dangers and uncertainties are ahead." Indeed, despite some Soviet military withdrawals, the Soviet Union retains an "awesome military capacity." And he warns that "we must remain strong."

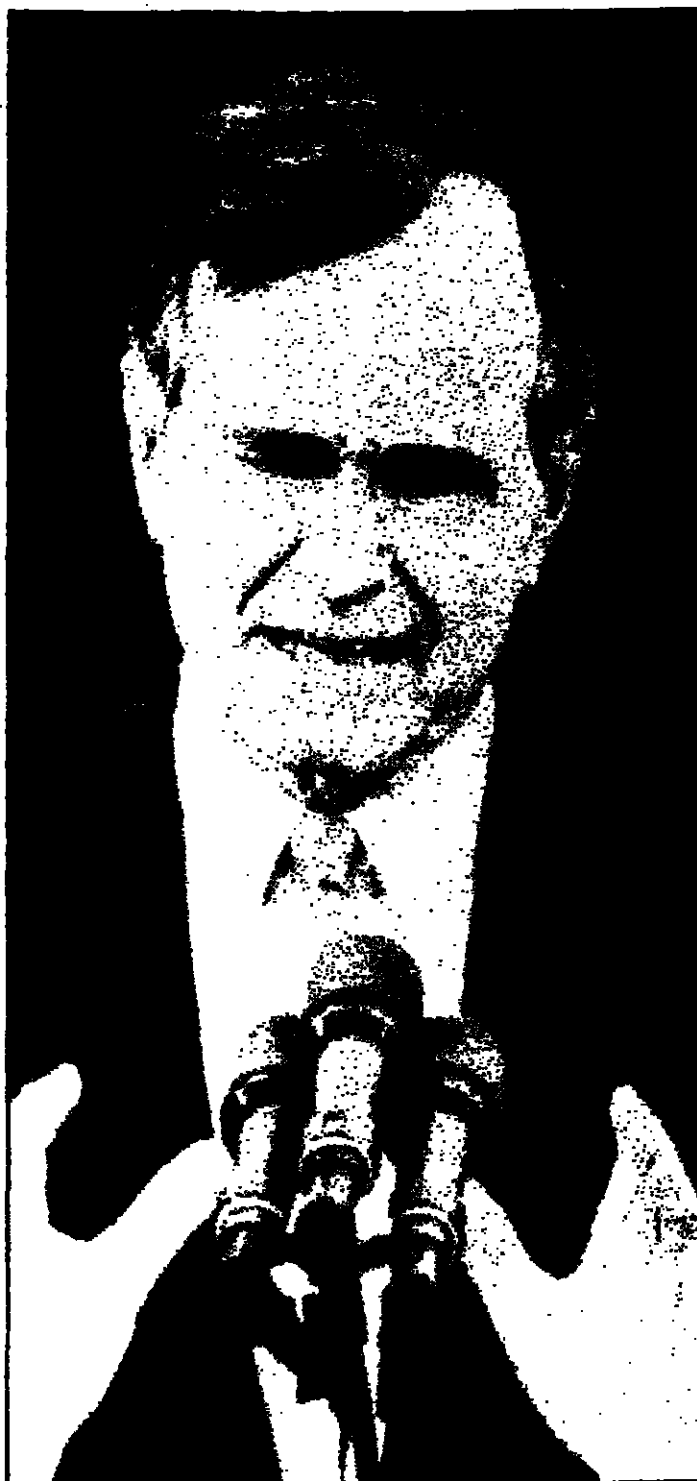
The list of American demands, while all justified, is long, the list of counter-offers is relatively short. A temporary extending of the Most Favoured Nation trading status may be important to the Soviets politically but in practice they have little support to the United States.

The revival of President Eisenhower's "Open Skies" proposal may be useful in detecting military mobilisation moves, but the Soviets are today much more interested in intrusive inspections on the ground than the Americans who believe that such inspection would be of much greater value to the Russians than to them.

Credits from private American sources would be welcome in Moscow, but they are looked askance by the US government. No without reason, American officials say that only a successful perestroika can help the Soviet economy not foreign credits.

Attitude

Their attitude toward Poland and Hungary is different and more open-minded. They want to encourage their efforts to promote democracy and would be quite willing to give them entry to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, offer them various trading privileges and help them with their international debt problems. At the same time, the Bush administration has made it clear to Gorbachev that while it welcomes economic and political restructuring in Eastern Europe, it has no intention of wanting to draw them into Western Europe. Such an attempt, it is fully realised here, could seriously threaten Gorbachev's survival. It is interesting though that Gorbachev seemed very confident and self-assured in his recent talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and rather than express concern about the efforts at greater independence in Poland and Hungary, he made it clear that he welcomed these changes and is



George Bush



Mikhail Gorbachev

encouraging them. He explained that he wants to reduce Soviet economic responsibilities among these neighbours and makes them deal with their own problems.

Political reform in the Soviet Union is about to take a big leap forward. The Congress of the Peoples' Deputies is about to meet to choose a new Supreme Soviet which in turn will choose a new government and a new president who, it is assumed, will be Mikhail Gorbachev. The third function of the Peoples' Deputies will be to establish a number of standing commissions which, not unlike the committees of the US Congress, will become supervisors and critics of governmental policies. Indicative of the importance attached to these commissions is the news, though still unconfirmed, that one of the ablest among foreign policy experts in the Soviet Union, Trifanov, who is currently head of the leading so-called institute dealing with foreign and economic policies, will become chairman of the Commission for Foreign Affairs. Still, it

remains to be seen how much influence these commissions will have on government.

In a curious way the US government seems to be better able to protect its assets than exploit its successes. Gorbachev is willing to take huge risks with perestroika and glasnost and with giving the Warsaw Pact countries a little more independence, while the United States gives the impression that it is unwilling to take lesser risks by agreeing to negotiate over short-range nuclear weapons. The European NATO allies, on the other hand, by trying to pursue their own goals without having developed their own strategy and their own objectives, are taking the risk that the United States and the Soviet Union will reach agreements between themselves without the kind of consultations they have become used to. As of now the European allies have yet to make plans how they will meet at least partial American troops withdrawals from Europe, which are bound to happen sooner rather than later.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Muslim culture omitted

SIR: Last Thursday (11th) and Friday (12th), an all-India cultural show was arranged at a Sea Club near the American embassy. Though it was called an "All-India Show," there was not even a single item representing the Muslim culture or background in India. There were items from the other two major faiths prevalent in India. The non-inclusion of any Muslim background cultural item seems to be a deliberate omission. Even in the organising committee, it seems there were no Muslim members.

In the stall too, amongst the items exhibited, there were no items showing Muslim culture, history, heritage, art, calligraphy, etc.

I appeal to all to hold the organising committee responsible in general for this serious lapse, and in particular the man who represented the organising committee on the stage by welcoming all to be blamed.

I wish to bring to the attention of the Indian embassy and the government of Kuwait through this column of the partisan attitude of the head of the committee—who I understand is one Dr Doraiswami.

Apart from the above, the whole programme was highly disappointing and was not worth the money a family spent, which amounted to cheating.

All were told by the organising committee that entry fees would be KD1 per family, but at the gate, people were charged at the rate of KD1 per head. Even a 3-year-old child was charged KD1, which was a big con. Having come all the way, one could hardly think of going back and the organisers fully exploited this situation.

Cheating No.2: The compere kept announcing on the top of

his voice about the excellent, high quality food amounting to full-lunch, whereas only snacks were available, and that too of a limited variety, not working out to a full lunch.

Cheating No.3: The committee had promised an excellent variety show of an All-India character whereas it turned out to be a very poor-quality show. The order of the items were frequently changed, making it a mockery.

Almost all items were stereotyped, identical dance numbers with hardly any variety or variation, with the exception of one or two items.

I sincerely hope Dr Doraiswami the self-proclaimed leader, and his team will not try these gimmicks again.

Mohammed Ansari, Safat.

Step-motherly treatment

SIR: Your newspaper has not given proper coverage to the "India Day" festival held on the 12th May at the Sea Club's Water Front Project.

Although the function could have been better with a little more planning and organisational help, it would be wrong to label it as disappointing.

It was apparent that a lot of work had been put in the setting up of the various stalls which did depict some rare artefacts, costumes and culinary masterpieces which were greatly appreciated by Indians as well as other visitors alike.

In my personal opinion, (an opinion was concurred by most people I met at the venue,) it was quite an entertaining day. The children loved the games and the adults did have the rare chance of a glance at the culture of various sections of the Indian community represented in the various stalls.

The cultural show in the

evening was well appreciated. Alexandre Rosario from Goa thrilled the audience with a few songs, specially with his rendition of a Kishore Kumar thriller. We should have more such festivals in the future and I am sure that it will get better.

The coverage for the Kuwait Goans' "May Queen" show at the Messiah Beach Hotel also was step-motherly. Alexandre was in superb form during the later part of the evening, not forgetting the superlative performance of the "Top Ranks" and "Next of Kin". The crowd really had it going good till early morning. Your reporter was probably not aware of what he/she should be expecting from the show.

We look forward to a more balanced coverage of local events in the future.

Wilson Rodrigues, Safat.

Poor projection of India

SIR: Last Thursday and Friday (11.5.89 and 12.5.89) India Day programme was arranged by a few associations. This was supposed to be an all-India programme projecting India to foreigners. What a substandard quality of programme it was! Barring a very few items, all the items were very stale, oft-repeated, and some of them very recently performed in the Indian Arts Circle or similar venues at different times by various groups.

It seems that no one ever bothered to check the items, rehearsals, scrutinise and improve the quality. This clearly indicates the indifferent attitude of the organisers. It also appears that the whole show was organised by a few individuals rather than associations.

One tall, hefty gentleman in the Goa "stall" was seen bitterly complaining about the facilities provided by the

organisers. At the back stage, it appears, children, who gathered from 3 pm in costume and makeup were not provided with any snacks or refreshments in time. Near the back stage, one gentleman from the Karnataka Association was genuinely shouting and arguing for pushing down his item in the serial order.

On the 1st day till about the inauguration, no stalls were completely ready, except 2 or 3. The articles exhibited were hardly presentable — all used clothes and living/drawing room paraphernalia collected and shabbily displayed. The sound level and quality was inconsistent, on top of which, the blaring of the compere was unbearable. At one stage the compere was heard proclaiming Goa was located on the 'southern' tip of India!

In the name of a stage a platform was erected without any ceiling, screens, side-wings, proper entry exits and props. After the items children were seen running abruptly to the back stage. All credit goes to one Dr N. V. Doraiswami of the Tamil Association who was quoted boasting as being the chief organiser. God save his association and the Indians from him, for any such future projections of India.

Jayanthi Bhal Chaggen, Shamleh, Kuwait.

Indian image tarnished

SIR: The India Day programme staged at the Bneid Al Gar Sea Club on May 11 and 12, '89, was one of the loudest shows ever witnessed in Kuwait. Even if one wishes one would miserably fail to find any plus point.

First of all the so-called organisers headed by one Dr Doraiswami of the Tamil Association could not even properly arrange for the Indian national anthem. There cannot

be a greater shame than this. One also wonders why in a show of a national level depicting a country's cultural heritage, the items be shuffled out of order so often. Was it too much for the organisers to stick to the order given in their souvenir? The compere too was of very, very poor quality. There were unprintable grammatical mistakes in the compere and the most irritating was the half-completed sentences.

Dr Doraiswami, clad in his regional dress was seen and heard bragging about the very high quality and standard of the show. If one cannot boast, one should at least restrain oneself from tarnishing the image of India. The team does not deserve any sympathy at all as rightly pointed out by the Arab Times reporter in her review published in the AT issue of 14/5/89.

Rajeshwar Lal, Safat.

North India ignored

SIR: The musical evening staged on April 27, at the Indian Arts Circle was very mediocre. The show went on for over three hours, past midnight causing inconvenience and annoyance.

The lyrics were not at all clear. In some songs even the language could not be made out. The orchestra was much louder, drowning out the vocal music completely.

It was advertised and announced that the programme would have an all-India character, but there were hardly any North Indian language songs. The show was dominated by South Indian languages numbers only. Neither were the songs entertaining nor the tunes popular. Individual performances or songs by only two or three persons would have made the language and words much clearer.

It was highly boring to see the same faces singing all the songs again and again, without any change in position or order. It is a matter of great pity, that for the amount of effort put in, the results were not commensurate.

Shanker, Shamleh.

Board of trustees should resign

SIR: It is disgusting to read about the management of the Pakistan School and College, Rumaithiya's board of trustees which has brought shame to the Pakistani community in general.

It seems from the letters published in the Arab Times that these so-called principals and vice-principals are responsible for the deterioration of educational standard in the school.

On many visits to the main school and its branch at Fahaheel, I have found that the principals appointed by the board of trustees are misfit and unworthy of the post.

They have no ability to express themselves either in English or in Urdu while they claim to be head of the school.

Moreover, I found some teachers more qualified and experienced and disciplined in their work. Under the present circumstances the whole board, under the present chairman should be dissolved and the sponsor should form the new board as well as the principal and VP.

I also request H.E. the Pakistan ambassador to look into the whole affair of the school.

Arif Saeed Malik, Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.



Followers threaten to kill US citizens

(Continued from Page 1)

"Marcos once more," marched today from Quezon City to within 100 metres (yards) of Malacanang Palace, the presidential palace before plainclothes police turned them back. They withdrew about 150 metres (yards) and began what they called a prayer vigil.

"This is a united front for a common appeal for this government to finally reconsider its decision of not allowing Marcos to come home, dead or alive," former Marcos spokesman Lito Gorospe told reporters. "We feel it's too inhuman, its devoid of any Christian values, and we are praying for a miracle that Madame Aquino will change her mind."

During the rally, radio commentator Leo Obligar warned of revolution if Aquino does not allow Marcos to die in the land he ruled for 20 years.

"I also assure you that if Marcos dies, there will be a lot of dead Americans," Obligar said as the crowd cheered wildly. "We want Marcos to return here to prevent a revolution."

Later, Obligar told reporters, "Filipinos will kill Americans because it is the Americans who are causing trouble." He did not elaborate.

Marcos supporters blame the United States for "kidnapping" their leader to Hawaii during the 1986 popular uprising that toppled his government and propelled Aquino to power. Marcos has lived in exile in Hawaii since then.

In Honolulu, Marcos associates said Aquino's estranged Vice-President, Salvador Laurel, would join the rally. But there was no sign of Laurel at the gathering.

Marcos supporters said, however, they would attend tomorrow's convention of the Nacionalista Party, which Laurel is attempting to revive as a vehicle for seeking the presidency in the 1992 election.

Laurel, who broke with Aquino last year, has called on her to allow Marcos to return. Aquino, whose government has survived six coup attempts, has cited national security in refusing to allow Marcos to come home.

Marcos' wife, Imelda, broadcast an appeal to Aquino yesterday to allow her husband to die in the Philippines.

Aquino said she was praying Marcos would recover, but his return was impossible.

Marcos fled to Honolulu after a civilian-backed military revolt in February 1986. The 20-year ruler faced racketeering charges in New York City for using embezzled money to buy properties in the United States.

Armed forces chief Gen. Renato de Villa said the 160,000-member military was prepared to meet any contingency but conceded there could be "a very highly emotional reaction" by Marcos supporters.

Oliver Lozano, a leader of the Marcos loyalist movement, said, "within three hours, we will hold rallies that should develop into a people power (demonstration)."

"If Aquino does not allow the body (of Marcos) to be brought here, we will take a symbolic coffin and then we will start marching in the streets," Lozano.

Manila's newspapers extensively covered Marcos' illness and surgery in Honolulu.

"Marcos is sinking fast, say doctors," read a banner headline in the Philippine daily Inquirer.

Upheaval spreads to provincial cities

Hong Kong and Taiwan react with concern

(Continued from Page 1)

government offices, schools, factories and mines.

The People's Liberation Army, poised at various locations on the outskirts of the city, appeared paralysed by the huge crowds in the streets.

Military convoys were quickly surrounded by crowds of people appealing for the soldiers to turn back. Many did.

Beijing residents in open defiance of martial law, blocked major intersections.

The only violence reported so far was in western Beijing, where students claimed they were attacked by army police wielding electric cattle prods. One student injured in the attack said 45 students were hospitalised.

By the evening the square was occupied by about 200,000 students and supporters demanding a freer and more democratic society.

They converged on Tiananmen Square on bicycles, in vans and in trucks.

At the other intersections on a highway surrounding the city citizens were setting up makeshift barricades to block military vehicles.

Horns blared, student traffic directors waved frantically and young people chanted slogans and waved large red flags as they rode by. Unlike previous days, when the main concerns were slogans decrying official corruption and proclaiming support for the students, many chanted for the dismissal of the increasingly unpopular Premier Li.

Li appears to have won a major victory within the party for his hardline stance by forcing the resignation of the more liberal Communist Party general secretary Zhao Ziyang.

Chinese sources said Zhao, highly respected for his pioneering work in economic reforms, resigned his post after failing to persuade Li and senior leader Deng Xiaoping to compromise with the students. There has been no official word on Zhao's future.

Li's political victory could be shortlived, however, if the military refuses to co-operate in the crackdown on the Beijing students.

Many in the crowd talked of how the Army would launch its attack. Some said the 7th battalion of paratroopers was to be airdropped on or near the square. Others said troops would enter through the subway, which was closed today.

Two students from Beijing Normal University carried around a blackboard with a message warning people that the attack would come at 2 am (1700 GMT Saturday). Three tanks were seen near the square earlier in the day, as were trucks loaded with tear gas cylinders.

On the square, students began collecting gauze to be used as protection against an anticipated tear gas attack. Student leaders gave instructions over loudspeakers on how to avoid the gas.

Large demonstrations were also reported in several other cities. In Shanghai, China's largest city, an estimated 500,000 filled the narrow crowded streets and the People's Square in front of the government building. Hong Kong Television reported a march by 80,000 in Canton.

On Shanghai's waterfront, 20,000 students flanked by thousands of sympathetic city workers protested for the fifth day running in support of 400 hunger strikers who have gone without food outside government headquarters since Tuesday.

In both cities marchers called for Li to step down.

Posters in Beijing have also demanded that 84-year-old senior leader Deng Xiaoping retire from his last official posts.

Deng is widely admired for initiating market-oriented reforms in China. But he has come under sharp attack by students for holding onto power too long and letting political reform lag behind his economic reforms.

Deng is believed to have had the final word in overruling Zhao's call for conciliation and deciding to come down hard on the demonstrators.

Anti-government demonstrations broke out in provincial Chinese cities and even rural towns today, witnesses said, a sign that mass public anger was



Thousands of demonstrators fill the Tiananmen Square. (Reuter wirephoto)



Over 40,000 Hong Kong residents attend a demonstration in support of the Chinese students movement.

3,000 on hunger strike

Tiananmen remains heart of defiance

BEIJING, May 20, (AP): Tiananmen Square, China's symbolic centre of power, yesterday remained the heart of pro-democracy protests despite the mobilization of troops to restore order.

The day's drama began before dawn, when Premier Li Peng and Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang visited some of the more than 3,000 students who have been on a hunger strike in the vast square since last Saturday.

Li and Zhao boarded two of the several dozen buses parked on the 40-hectare (100-acre) square that have sheltered the fasting students. After a short visit, the leaders left the square without promising to meet student demands.

Throughout the day, student leaders debated their next move. Ambulances with stretchers waited outside the square to take fasting students to hospitals for treatment. Rumours of troop movements swirled through the crowd.

Tens of thousands of other students, some from far-away provinces, camped in the square in solidarity with the fasters. Many wore white headbands and armbands with slogans of support.

Tiananmen was filthy from a week of occupation, with garbage piled high in several places and broken bottles strewn across square's stone tiles. Hygiene crews spraying disinfectant wound through the crowd.

Trucks carrying banner-waving workers and students constantly lumbered down the streets surrounding Tiananmen. Other groups marched through the square to support the fasters.

By evening, student leaders decided to stay in the square but stop the hunger strike. The fasting students descended from the buses, carrying dirty quilts and blankets under their arms, and sat down nearby, huddling as the evening grew cooler.

At about 9:30 pm, the square's official loudspeaker system began broadcasting speeches of Li and President Yang Shangkun, who revealed troops were moved to Beijing to restore order.

Large groups gathered around the dozens of speakers, listening in the eerie light cast by the square's lampposts. They occasionally jeered Li and angrily shouted obscenities.

The scene became increasingly chaotic, with three broadcasts going at once, bottles breaking, women crying, men yelling. Some people quietly played guitar.

As the tension mounted, students remained defiant. "I'm not afraid to die," shouted one hunger striker who vowed not to eat until the student demands were met.

Western governments expressed support for the pro-democracy movement and called for restraint on the part of both the Chinese government and protesters.

In the United States, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, in Kennebunkport, Maine, with the vacationing President George Bush, said though events in China appeared confused, both sides had exercised restraint.

"We hope this will continue," The British Foreign Office said today. "We are naturally concerned that the Chinese authorities have felt it necessary to impose martial law in parts of the capital."

French President Francois Mitterrand said the demonstrations in China were "a great combat for humanity."

The US State Department today recommended that Americans planning on travelling to China defer their trip for the next 72 hours.

The Dutch government today cancelled a visit to China by Queen Beatrix and her husband, Prince Claus.

hen bordering Hong Kong urged people to challenge Li and called on soldiers to defy his orders, sources contacted from the British colony said.

Forty-five-thousand people braved the wind and rain of an approaching typhoon in Hong Kong and Macau to chant for the overthrow of China's leaders and show support for the rebellious students.

Hong Kong and Taiwan, two islands with special interest in events on the Chinese mainland, reacted with concern to the imposition of martial law.

A Western tourist described seeing knots of demonstrators in small towns and even villages on the rail route between Changsha and Shaoshan, the birthplace of Mao Tse-tung, but it was unclear how widespread the rural protests were.

Students in China's first special economic zone of Shenzhen in southern province of Hunan, tens of thousands of students marched through the city calling for democratic freedoms, a foreign resident said. Protests were also seen in neighbouring Xiangtan.

The ancient capital of Xian in northern China came to a standstill when 300,000 protesters, sympathetic citizens and onlookers packed the city's streets, a Western witness said by telephone.

In Changsha, capital of the

Court delays massacre verdict

MANILA, May 20, (AP): A military court has delayed its decision on a case against 23 soldiers charged with killing 17 civilians in February 1987.

The defendants from the Philippine Army's 14th Infantry battalion appeared in court yesterday for what legal sources had said would be a verdict in the case.

But their attorney, Capt. Wilson Agbayani, argued that he had new witnesses and evidence that could affect the verdict. The session was postponed until May 29.

The court was supposed to have ended the 15-month trial yesterday in the Feb 10, 1987, killing of civilians in the town of Lupao in Nueva Ecija province, 85 miles (135 kilometres) north of Manila.

Investigators found that the killings followed a clash between communist New People's Army rebels and soldiers in which a lieutenant was slain.

Survivors said angry soldiers, suspecting the civilians were supporting the insurgents, dragged the victims from their homes, sprayed them with bullets, then left after looting the houses.

Amnesty International and other human rights groups have cited the "Lupao massacre" and the absence of a conviction in the case as an example of on-going human rights abuses under President Corason Aquino.

Col Mayo Domingo, president of the six-member court, granted defence attorneys 10 days to ask for reopening of the trial from Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa.

Court sources said at least four soldiers maybe convicted because survivors, testifying under oath, had pointed to them as the killers of their relatives.

Members of the Carnate family, former residents of Lupao, had testified that Sgt Nestor Garcia stabbed to death their father, Ernesto, as armed soldiers milled around the civilian while he pleaded for mercy. The seven witnesses pointed to three other soldiers, identifying them as having taken part in the massacre.

Prosecutor Maj. Jose Montero argued against postponing the decision.

Burmese troops cross border, clash with Thais

MAE SOT, Thailand, May 20, (AP): Burmese government forces clashed with Thai troops today after crossing into Thailand to attack a Karen rebel camp in the third day of fierce fighting, a Thai border patrol officer said.

Thai soldiers and paramilitary personnel were sent in as reinforcements after the incursion, officials said.

A group of 100 Burmese soldiers crossed the Moei river boundary into Mae Sot district at 5 am (0000 GMT). Thai forces fired artillery to warn them to return, the Thai officer said.

He said a second group of 400 Burmese soldiers intruded into the district's Ban Wangkaew village, which has been evacuated due to the fighting, to set up heavy weapons to shell the Karen camp. Some of them also seized control of a road about nine kilometres (5.5 miles) from Mae Sot, he said.

Thai forces fired into the village, but the Burmese soldiers remained by evening, he said. The officer said earlier the Burmese were believed to have left.

"They (Burmese) are attacking across the river and fighting us from the Thai side," said a Karen official who asked not to be named. He said the current offensive was the largest since 1977, and thousands of Karen civilians had fled to Thailand.

Thailand in the past has given sanctuary to the rebels while also maintaining good relations with the current Burmese military government.

The Thai officer, speaking on condition he not be identified, said other Burmese troops perched on two hills in Burma continued shelling Kaw Moo Ra today, setting much of the camp ablaze. Fierce fighting was reported in the northern part of the camp.

He estimated that 1,200 guerrillas were defending the camp against about 3,000 Burmese soldiers.

Kaw Moo Ra is in Karen state and about 224 kilometres (140 miles) east of Rangoon, the Burmese capital.

Burmese forces began shelling Kaw Moo Ra on Thursday, two days after overrunning the major rebel base of Wangkha, two kilometres (1.5 miles) to the south.



Kim Chang-hwa (left) who defected to South Korea greets a friend.

Dissidents call for ouster of Roh, troops block protest rally, more than 1,000 detained

SEOUL, May 20, (AP): Police arrested more than 1,000 people today after the government deployed 17,000 troops to block a rally by dissidents calling for the ouster of President Roh Tae-woo.

Riot police dressed in green combat fatigues flooded central Seoul, checking pedestrians and guarding key government buildings and the US embassy.

Charging police disbanded hundreds of protesters who tried to block streets and chant anti-government slogans in the capital. Struggling protesters were taken away on police buses and officials said more than 1,000 people had been arrested.

"Punish Roh Tae-woo" and "drive out the Yankees," protesters yelled.

Roh, a former general, won a presidential election in late 1987. Dissidents claim Roh is a front for military rule despite his introduction of broad democratic reforms.

Some dissidents also are demanding the expulsion of the 43,000 US troops based in South Korea under a mutual defence treaty.

About 120 Seoul students courted arrest by laying down in one main street and their arms and legs interlocked. Riot troopers hauled the students away as other protesters shouted abuses, but there were no clashes.

Riot police also blocked protests in the rural cities of Chonju, Sunnam and Taegu. Small protest marches were allowed in eight other cities after organisers obtained police permission, reports said.

The United National Democratic Movement, the nation's main dissident alliance, had called for a major protest in Seoul to push for Roh's downfall and mark the anniversary of a May 1980 uprising in the southern city of Kwangju.

The movement issued a statement denouncing the government for blocking the rally and said police had violated the marcher's political rights.

A South Korean writer, Hwang Sok-Yong, who made an unauthorized visit to North Korea in March and April left Japan for West Germany last night.

Government and opposition parties agreed yesterday to ask disgraced former President Chun Doo Hwan to testify before parliament on controversial cases of power abuse and corruption which took place during his rule.

EVENTS

British Airways to launch new express

BRITISH Airways is to launch a super-sonic trans-Atlantic link, tying London to Boston this summer.

From June 1 the airline will use a Cessna Citation executive jet of Enterprise Airlines of America to forge the link between Boston, Massachusetts and its super-sonic Concorde service into New York.

Called 'The Concorde Connection', the new service will be almost two hours faster from London to Boston than direct 747 services.

It will enable travellers from the Middle East to leave this region on a scheduled British Airways night flight, arrive in London early morning, connect to the 10.30 am Concorde flight which arrives in New York at 9.20 am local time, transfer to the fast executive jet and arrive in Boston at 11.30 am the same morning.

Crescent Society office bearers

THE Kuwait-Kerala Crescent Society a non-profit social-cultural organisation which was established in 1983 has elected their new office-bearers for 1989-90.

Sayid Mohamed Nizar, Kunthi Mohamed and Abdul Rasheed had been elected president, general secretary, and treasurer respectively.

Some facets of Germany

A blend of high-tech and culture

THE Federal Republic of Germany this month celebrates "four decades of democracy". West Germans are holding world-wide celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the Constitution Day on May 23. The foundations of a democratic Germany were laid when the constitution was declared on May 23, 1949, after World War II. The festive flavour of world celebrations varies from mainly cultural to a blend of a culture and high-tech sophistication.

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kuwait wants to revive German romanticism while retaining the image of "a high-tech country" during week-long festivities, beginning May 23.

West Germany is the third largest exporter of industrial goods to Kuwait. The annual turnover is about 719.5 million Deutsche mark. German exports, among others, are mainly automobiles (24 per cent), chemical products (13 per cent), electrical goods (12 per cent) and machinery (11 per cent).

West German Counsellor Hubert Kolb feels that the "potential of the Kuwait market" has not yet reached the maximum. Like the rest of the world, the West Germans have adopted a "wait and see" attitude after the Gulf war.

In an interview on the eve of the German Week, Kolb said his country views Kuwait as "a moderate country, reigned by

common sense." "Kuwait is able to play an important role in the Arab world because of its modernisation, and good relations with other world countries, particularly its neighbours."

"Kuwait's moderation is impressive," he added. Kuwait has had steadfast economic ties with West Germany. Kuwaiti businessmen have made heavy investments in major West German firms; and investments in that country are growing at a steady pace.

West Germany is also becoming a favourite tourist destination for Kuwaitis. More than 14,000 tourists visit that country each year, going to Munich, Stuttgart, Bavaria, the Alps, Black Forest and the Spas.

The health resorts are attracting a large number of Gulf citizens, particularly from Kuwait. In the last few years, Kuwaitis have sought medical treatment in hospitals in Frankfurt, Heidelberg and Baden-Baden.

The West Germans have played a vital, but invisible, role in building the infrastructure of Kuwait. One of the most important was the Doha reverse osmosis plant (seawater-desalination) built with German know-how and with the help of German experts. They have also supplied computers and sophisticated equipment for several other important projects.

There are about 600 Germans in Kuwait; their number fluctuates depending on how active the German companies are in the country. Keeping in mind the various degrees of co-operation between the two countries, the Germans have prepared a fairly comprehensive exhibition, featuring more than 25 companies, which will highlight some aspects of West Germany. These include industry, medicine, tourism and culture.

During the German Week, a concert with Joanna and her band will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel, followed by a magic show by Alexander.

"The weeklong festivities give a tiny glimpse of my country," said Kolb. The celebration also marks the "steady" relationship Germany has had with Kuwait in the last 28 years.

An International Children's Festival will be held on May 26. Games for the kids include hit-a-head; pin-a-tail; balloon bursting; still walking and face painting. The highlight will be a painting competition for children aged five to eight.

Meticulously planned, the presentation has crystallised into an exhibition of "some facets of Germany," blend of some of the many things that the country boasts of, ranging from sophisticated machinery to higher education.

The German Week will be held from May 23 to 27 at the Regency Palace hotel. For details see What's On column.

KTV 1

MORNING

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Falaheen: cartoon serial (Part 2)
9.45 Magazine D'Actualite
10.00 Yaseen Wa Bahiya: Arabic serial (Part 9)
10.45 News summary and varieties
11.00 Al Aswar: local serial (Part 9)
12.00 That's Incredible: foreign programme
1.00 News summary
1.05 Holy Quran/ Close-down

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 The World News via Satellite
4.45 Sherlock Holmes: cartoon serial
5.15 Tum Tac Wa El Atfal: local children programme
5.30 Laila Min Alf Laila Wa Laila: cultural children programme
6.00 Qanadeel Shabiya: historical serial
7.30 Varieties
7.45 Diwanee Shu'ara Al Nabat
8.30 Local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Layali Al Hilmiya: daily Arabic serial (Part 9)
10.45 Variety late night programme featuring Najla' Fathi and Mufeed Fawzi
11.45 News summary
11.50 The World News via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran/ Close-down

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES



A scene from 'Lonesome Dove' the Bestseller on KTV 2 at 10.30 pm today.

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Dennis the Menace: cartoon serial
6.30 Scientific Eye: "Fitness and Sport." Theories abound about fitness and sport. Tonight's episode examines various sports and how they build energy.
7.00 In the Wild: a documentary on wild-

life in the Australian outback
7.30 Sea Hunt: "Toxic Waste." The sea has been turned into a dumping ground: raising fears of pollution. Dr Mike investigates
8.00 News in English
8.40 Murder, She Wrote: "As a Jail Bird." Jessica is accused of the alleged murder of a Bulgarian. Will she be freed? Starring: Angela Lansbury.

9.30 Nature Watch: "Chipmunk." A look at the tiny chipmunk and its behaviour in the wild.
10.00 You Can't Take It With You: Comedy. Grandpa Morgan is arrested for refusing to pay his hotel bill.
10.30 Bestseller: "Lonesome Dove." Part 3. Guss pursues horse thieves; and Larry follows him.
12.00 News Summary/ Magazine D'Actualite/Close-down

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Salem Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Near Sheraton Hotel
Ibn Rushd Pharmacy
Al Duajj Souk,
Souk Al Kuwait Bldg.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Jodari Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis St.
Al Qasbi Bldg.
Salamiya and Rumailhiya
Hiba Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahd Al Rashid Bldg.
Fahad and Almadhi
Sadaf Pharmacy
Fahad, Makkah St.
Faisal Al Dabbous Bldg.
Jleeb Al Shoukha
Al Ayoub Pharmacy
Souk Al Shoukha Commercial Complex
Jahra
Al Abraj Pharmacy
Dabal Al Khozi St.
Near the Educational Dept.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Iron Angels II
Starring: Alex Young, Mona Lee
Al Salamiya
Revenge of the Nerds II
Starring: Robert Carridine, Antony Edwards
Al Hamra
Lucas
Starring: Charlie Chan, Karen Hutton
Drive-In
Arees Fi Al Ya Naseeb (Arabic)
Starring: Samir Ghanim, Dalal Abdul Aziz
Al Firdous
Sawal (Hindi)
Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon
Fahad Open-Air
Andha Yudh (Hindi)

Fahad
Moving
Jahra
Sachai
Granada
Amar, Akbar, Anthony
Sulabikhat
Nadine
Al Jleeb
Theruvu Narthagi
Ahmadi Drive-In
Less than Zero

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.22 am
Zuhr	11.44
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.37
Isha	8.05



THE art exhibition of Monirul Islam, which was opened on May 13 by the Bangladeshi Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin, is still on. The exhibition will remain open at the Kuwait National Museum till May 27 between 8.30 am and 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.



Mercedes-Benz to launch new sports car series

DEPUTY chairman of Daimler-Benz AG, Prof. Werner Niefer arrived in Kuwait in a private jet for the launch of the new Mercedes-Benz SL sports car series. He is leaving today.

Prof. Niefer, who is chairman-designate of the newly formed Mercedes-Benz AG company began his career as an apprentice toolmaker with Daimler-Benz. After obtaining an engineering degree, he rejoined the company as a production engineer in 1952. Ten years later, in 1962, he took up the challenging job of consolidating the production of engines of Daimler-Benz and Maybach products.

It was a project that gave birth to the present Motoren-Und Turbinen-Union (MTU). In 1976, Prof. Niefer was appointed a member of the board of management of Daimler-Benz AG; and in 1987, he was appointed deputy chairman of the company.



Werner Niefer

Recently, the company was restructured and Prof. Niefer, as a board member, took over responsibility for the passenger car division. On July 1, 1989, he will become the chairman of the newly formed Mercedes-Benz AG.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts; ceramics, carpets and marine equipment Arabian Gulf St.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Bangladesh Art Show
UPTO May 27. Bangladeshi artist Monirul Islam will show 45 paintings at the Kuwait National Museum. Islam's paintings revolve around the life of Bangladeshis. Landscapes are also on show. The exhibition will be open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm. It has been organised by the Bangladesh Association.

FILMS

British Council
MAY 21 (6.30 pm): "A Room With a View," an adaptation of E.M. Forster's novel will be shown at the British Council, Mansouriya. Featuring an incomparable cast, recipient of three Oscars, it tells the story of Lucy Honeychurch (Helena Bonham-Carter), a beautiful young English girl abroad, whose emotions are rocked when she witnesses a murder, and whose life is forever altered by the sudden and mysterious arrival of a passionate young man. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 251-5512; 253-3204; 252-2327.

Children's film
May 24 (6 pm); May 25 (10.30 am); Heidi, a BBC

production of one of the most popular children's stories, is set amidst the scenery of the Swiss Alps. It is about Heidi, a young, spirited Swiss orphan, who is taken to live with her grandfather in the mountains; unexpectedly, she has to leave her beloved mountains and live with a strange family in the city. This children's film will be shown at the British Council, Mansouriya. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 251-5512; 253-3204.

MUSIC

Kuwait Singers
MAY 24/25 (8.00 pm): Kuwait Singers presents 'Stage Struck' an evening show of songs from Broadway and the West End at Gulf English School, Salwa. For tickets and reservations contact 5317433/5384873. Tickets KD3.

Musical evening
JUNE 9, at 6 pm: The Indian Musical group 'Octave' will present a grand musical evening at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium. Hindi, Bengali, Tamil and Malayalam songs will be staged by highly talented singers and musicians.

SOCIAL

Jukebox 5
MAY 23-25: The Sounds Great production of Jukebox 5, will be presented at the Salmiyah Cinema at 8 pm and also at 5 pm on May 25. For reservations ring 5740256/7 (mornings and 4 to 7 pm) or 5718143 or 5731782. Tickets will be on sale at Salmiyah Cinema Box Office.

Indian Arts Circle
May 25: The IAC will hold a one-hour variety show, followed by a prize-distribution ceremony for the winners of the One-Act Play Competition, recently conducted by them. The names of the winners will be announced on May 25 at the ceremony, which will be followed by dinner. For reservations call 3904817; 2644863; 3903879; 3920165.

German Week
MAY 23, Tuesday: Opening reception for anniversary,

exhibition by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany at 7.00 pm at the Regency Palace hotel ballroom "Sheikha".

MAY 24, Wednesday: German Gala Night with German food buffet, musicians and other entertainments, ballroom "Sheikha" at 8.00 pm. Exhibition hours are from 9.30 am until 1.00 pm and from 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

MAY 26, Friday: International Children's Day from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm in the ballroom "Sheikha" of the Conference Centre Building. Exhibition hours are from 9.30 am to 9.00 pm.

MAY 27, Saturday: Siemens — 30 years in Kuwait. Reception at 7.30 pm in the ballroom "Sheikha" of the Conference Centre Building. Exhibition hours are from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm and 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

Mando Festival
MAY 26: For the first time in the history of Goans in Kuwait — Kuwait Konkani Kendri (KKK) is going to organise a Konkani Mando Festival at Hotel Meridien starting at 10.30 am. For details please contact 2644983.

Kuwait Players
May 28 — June 1 (7.30 pm): Kuwait Players will present the last production of the season, a comedy entitled When Did You Last See Your Trousers, at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets — KD3. For reservations call 5637088; 5629875.

Sultan Gallery
UPTO May 31: Exhibition of painting of the papyrus by Egyptian artist Adam Henein. Opening hours 10 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm at the Thunayan Alghanim Building, Soor Street.

Konkani Drama
JUNE 15/16 (4.00 pm): Nashibcho Divo Paloulo, the MAR production's Konkani drama, directed by Prem Kumar to be staged at the Indian Arts Circle. For entry passes contact Raja Stores, tel: 2412970.

Get-together

JUNE 16: The Go-Go Club will be having a get-together at the Ramada Al Salem Hotel from 11 am onwards with Stepping Stones and Symphony in attendance. For details contact Raju 2412970 and Tony 2631826 after 3.30 pm.

HOTELS

At the Kuwait International
Garden pool: Kubli Khan Mongolian barbecue every Friday afternoon. Mix and match your lunch while it is prepared according to your palate. Ext 8006.

La Patisserie: Serves continental breakfast and afternoon tea. Sachertart is the cake of the week. Pianist in the evenings. Ext 8014.

Falaka: Rooftop restaurant offers international cuisine. Arab nights on Thursday. Live entertainment during dinner. Open for lunch and dinner. Closed on Fridays Ext 8012.

At the Holiday Inn:
SWIMMING lessons have commenced which is available for non-members.
Mondays (6 to 7 pm) separate ladies and men's fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill.
Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm) ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Touvi Pakasalo.
Saturdays and Tuesdays yoga (7 to 8 pm). Bowling alley available for company tournaments.
Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome. Tennis coaching available for non-members. Additional facilities available under the supervision of selective professionals: loss of weight, body building, massage (steam-oil-and cream) for ladies and men. Contact the recreation department on 4742000 ext. 6788 or 6700.

At the Meridien
SPECIAL weekly promotion at La Brasserie restaurant. Asian corner every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

A wide variety of Asian dishes, in addition to the regular buffet, will be featured. Tempura, fried noodles, etc. are prepared in front of the guests and served on the spot.

Mexican night every Sunday. Discover the delight of Mexican cuisine awaiting you in our Little Mexico.

Greek Taverna every Tuesday. Experience authentic Greek ambience and food with bouzouki music and a wide variety of mezzah.

Family day every Friday. Enjoy a Friday with your family. La Brasserie offers a wide array of Oriental favourites along with live music entertainment plus magician to thrill the little ones and many other games for the children.

SPORTS

Swimming and Keep Fit
SWIMMING lessons have commenced at the Holiday Inn which is available for non-members. Monday (6 to 7 pm) separate ladies and men's fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill.
Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm) ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Touvi Pakasalo.
Saturdays and Tuesdays Yoga (7 to 8 pm).
Bowling alley available for company tournaments.
Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome. Tennis coaching available for non-members and additional facilities available under the supervision of selective professionals: loss of weight, body building, massage (steam - oil - and cream) for ladies and men.
Please contact the recreation department tel. 4742000 ext 6788 or 6700.

Swimming Classes
MAY 24: Swimming classes, total 8 lessons — every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at the Kuwait International Hotel. Details at ext. 8050. May 9 - June 12: Tennis clinic with a choice of 3 different schedules. Details at ext. 8050 with Antony Kingma.



Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Affairs Budimir Lonchar (centre), who stayed at the Kuwait International Hotel during his visit to Kuwait, is seen with Kuwait's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Osaime (left). They were welcomed and escorted by the hotel's resident manager Ali Ewais (right).



Al Mulla Ramadan draw

The draw for car purchasers during Ramadan was held at Al Mulla's showroom recently. The draw was supervised by representatives from Ministry of Commerce and the Interior in the presence of a large audience. The 'Free Car' prize was won by Mustafa Ahmed Qassem who purchased a 1989 Colt GLX during Ramadan. For car purchasers from May 14, Al Mulla has announced a new promotion with cash prizes totalling \$52,500. All purchasers of Chrysler and Mitsubishi saloon cars before June 14 will qualify for this draw. Picture above shows Mustafa Ahmed Qassem (2nd from right) with ministry and company officials.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Burgan profits surge

11pc rise

KUWAIT, May 20, (Reuters): Kuwait's Burgan Bank reported today an 11 per cent rise in its profits for 1988, citing as reasons its dealings in treasury instruments and a higher international presence.

Burgan, the fifth largest of Kuwait's six commercial banks in terms of assets, said net profit for the year rose to 6.1 million dinars (\$21 million).

Four other Kuwaiti banks, helped by low-interest government deposits, have also announced profit increases for the year. A sixth, Al-Ahli Bank, said profits fell.

In a statement released with Burgan's annual report, chairman Ahmed Abdullah Al Sabah said it improved yields on international investments, expanded activities abroad and dealt actively in the primary and secondary markets for Kuwaiti treasury bills and bonds.

He said the bank would move this year to finance the reconstruction of the economies of Iraq and Iran in the aftermath of last August's ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Burgan Bank "will take the initiative by granting credit facilities to the sectors which are involved in reconstruction projects in the two neighbouring countries, in addition to financing their demand for imports of goods and services," he said.

ASRY to build new dry dock

BAHRAIN, May 20, (Reuters): The Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY) is planning to build a new drydock to cash in on a boom ushered in by the Iran-Iraq ceasefire and higher ship prices world-wide.

AJ Machado Lopes, general manager of the Bahrain-based Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard, told Reuters a feasibility study was underway and a decision was likely by the end of July.

Plans to buy a 100,000-tonne floating dock had been scrapped, he said, but the firm was now studying proposals for three types of drydocks to service ships ranging from 80,000 to 200,000 deadweight (DWT) tonnes.

Lopes said ASRY, one of two ship repair yards in the Gulf, made a profit of \$3.3 million in the first quarter of 1989. He also said turnover in 1988 rose to \$26 million from \$22 million in 1987.

"We are getting a larger share of the world market because the number of ships coming to the Gulf is higher than ever before," he said.

"Since the Iran-Iraq war ended last August, the amount of oil leaving the area by tanker has risen and since insurance prices have dropped ships are willing to stay longer."

More than 500 ships were attacked in the Gulf by either Iran or Iraq during their eight-year war.

Oman opens stock market to get money flowing

MUSCAT, May 20, (Reuters): Oman opened its first stock market today in hope of encouraging large but stagnant pools of private wealth to flow more efficiently into economic development.

"Our objective is to encourage people to save money and to finance the economy," said Mahmood Mohammed Al Jarwani, director-general of the exchange.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Salim Bin Abdullah Al Ghazali opened trading with an order from the ruler, Sultan Qaboos.

The Sultan's purchase of shares from the government will go to help children in need and was symbolic of the aim of the new market to widen the benefits of the corporate economy through privatisation.

Leading Arab economists have urged wealthy Gulf Arab states to develop capital markets to use the large funds available better and give an alternative to overseas investment.

Kuwait has an established stock market

and Bahrain has opened one but it is not yet trading. Saudi Arabia has blown hot and cold over the idea but Qatar likes it and the UAE has plans for a floor.

On the floor of the Oman market in the basement of the Commerce Ministry, brokers take orders directly or by telephone, writing up trades on the board for the 48 listed companies.

So far, only Omanis can enter the market save for some companies which are already partly held by foreigners.

National Bank of Oman, for example, is 40 per cent held by the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

These shares can be traded as long as the foreign holding remains below 35 per cent, Jarwani said.

The success of the market will depend on the government releasing some of its own holdings and on persuading other existing owners to sell their shares.

The government holds 15 to 70 per cent

of shares in each of the listed companies, brokers said.

Many are so profitable that there is no great incentive to sell. "We have many buyers but we want sellers too," said one broker.

Investors are interested in the very large dividends, which give an average annual return of around 20 to 30 per cent on investments, brokers said.

Some companies have annual profits of one and a half times the value of their base capital.

The market's consultant, Dr Hashem Sabbagh, who set up and is chairman of Jordan's Stock Market, said the ideal would be to have a quarter of Omanis as shareholders.

"Our aim is to push (existing holders) to sell more shares to the public," he said.

There are now 18,000 registered shareholders in Omani companies, including tightly-held shares in 23 firms traded out-

side the new exchange on an over-the-counter market. This is about 1.5 per cent of the population.

Sabbagh said he was looking to get a daily turnover of one to three million rials (\$2.5 to 7.5 million) in three years' time.

Shares were quoted first at their book value — the capital value of the company divided by the number of shares in issue. Bids were then accepted.

Oman National Gas started with a book value of 1.83 rials (\$4.72) and ended the first one-hour morning session bid at 4.50 rials (\$11.61).

Not everyone was used to the idea of a stock exchange. One dignified old gentleman, wearing traditional robes with a curved dagger at his waist, strode on to the floor to get a closer look at the prices on the board.

The brokers welcomed him and shook his hand. They then ushered him back, asking politely if he would not mind standing outside the floor.

Confusion over policy continues

Iranians kept afloat by black economy

DUBAI, May 20, (Reuters): Rent for a modest two-bed flat in Tehran can be twice the monthly salary of the average worker and a pair of jeans costs the equivalent of two weeks' wages. Iranians living in the Gulf and independent economists draw a picture of Iran as a country where the man-in-the-street must swim the muddy waters of the unofficial economy to survive.

In Iran, the black economy has become the real economy as confusion over official policy continues. State finances float precariously on a limited pool of oil which buys scarce foreign exchange.

"Most people cannot live on their real wages, so they join in with the black economy," said one Iranian.

"If you have a car, then after your day's work you can go out as a taxi driver to earn some more," said another Iranian.

Iran has become increasingly politically isolated this year as it follows a strict course of Islamic idealism, nurtured by spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini's deep distrust of moral and economic liberalisation.

Sources close to Iranian parliamentarians say the leadership is well aware that it must tackle the strains within the economy but that little can be done until there is greater political centralisation.

Outside political analysts believe Iran may be able to chart a clearer course after presidential elections in August, which Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani appears set to win.

Iran's problem is most dramatically reflected in a black market exchange rate for its

currency, the rial, that is now approaching 24 times the official rate.

In nearby Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, which Iranian merchants use as an outlet for non-oil trade, the street rate for rials this week was as high as 1,500 to the dollar.

An average worker in Iran earns 50,000 to 70,000 rials a month, a doctor on a government salary perhaps 100,000 rials a month.

Travellers say a pair of jeans costs 30,000 rials and a kilo (2.2 pounds) of meat 3,000. The home-made Paykan car has gone up in price 25 times in 10 years to nine million rials.

The fact that Iran's economy has become priced on the real value of the dollar can be seen by dividing these prices by the black market rate — jeans at \$20, meat at two and a car for 6,000, the economists said.

The leadership has issued conflicting signals to its citizens, who have become wary of ostentatious free enterprise after 10 years of Islamic revolutionary attacks on capitalism.

In the past month, a top-level advisory council recommended that some state-owned firms be privatised for efficiency's sake. Outside economists estimate more than 90 per cent of the corporate economy controlled by the state.

In two weeks time, the government has said it will impose a 15 to 40 per cent sliding scale wealth tax on people with assets of 100 million rials and over.

With a typical house in north Tehran valued at up to 20 million, Iranians estimate one in 10 of the country's 50 million people will be eligible for the tax.

Sweeping monetary changes under review

EEC finance ministers meet

S'AGARO, Spain, May 20, (AP): European finance ministers met today to air their differences publicly for the first time over new proposals calling for sweeping changes in Europe's economic and monetary policies.

Before beginning their talks, the finance chiefs of the 12 nations of the European Economic Community posed for photographs on a sunny patio at a luxury resort on Spain's Costa Brava.

In their daylong talks, the ministers planned to discuss the recommendations of a high-level report on forging a common currency and central bank for the trading bloc.

The officials were taking up fresh suggestions for streamlining their nation's Value-Added Taxes on retail sales.

Their talks also were expected to touch on the recent surge in the value of the dollar against other major currencies and the foreign debt burden of the developing nations.

But the focus of their attention was on ways to fashion a common stand on monetary and tax policies. The issues are some of the most troublesome facing the trading bloc in its drive to create a barrier-free, European-wide market by the end of 1992.

The finance ministers, who arrived in S'Agaro late yesterday, met twice a year in an informal setting to hash over financial and monetary issues.

Leading off their agenda was a report released last month that urged the Common Market nations to begin the move towards economic and monetary union by July 1, 1990.

Such a drive, it said, "represents a quantum jump which could secure a significant increase in economic welfare in the community."

The report was drawn up by a 17-member committee, including European central bankers, Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, the community's executive body, was chairman of the panel.

The community has been struggling for some time with how to smooth their widely varying sales taxes in the push to reduce restrictions that keep goods, people and money from moving freely among the nations.

The European Commission last Wednesday unveiled a new plan that calls for setting a minimum standard tax rate of a little more than 4 per cent and letting each country set the maximum

Dollar surge may dominate talks

S'AGARO, Spain, May 20, (Reuters): The surge of the dollar and the failure of joint central bank intervention to hold down the US currency is likely to dominate a meeting of European Economic Community finance ministers today.

The ministers and their central bank governors, gathered yesterday to discuss for the first time a controversial report on economic and monetary union and thorny tax issues which have split the 12-nation bloc.

But officials said the dollar looked certain to be at the main topic over lunch today after a call by French President Francois Mitterrand for a meeting of leading industrial nations to tackle the currency problem.

"The dollar is not officially on the agenda," Spanish Secretary of State for the Economy Pedro Perez said. "But the issue is bound to be raised."

The dollar's surge, threatening to undermine Western Europe's anti-inflation policies by driving up import prices, has cast doubts over the ability of leading industrial nations to keep currencies within limits agreed under their 1987 Louvre accord.

French Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy, who had talks with West Germany's Theo Waigel on Friday evening, is expected to press for a joint European Economic Community response to the newly-muscular dollar. That would have to be co-ordinated later with the United States and Japan.

Waigel, attending his first meeting of EEC finance ministers since taking office last month, said before leaving Bonn he believed international monetary co-operation was still working, but added, "only co-ordinated, joint action makes sense."

Concerted bouts of foreign-exchange-market intervention — sometimes involving more than \$1 billion a day — have failed to contain the US currency's rise towards two marks.

That would be a full 10 pennings above what is widely seen as the tolerated upper limit.

Community finance ministers and central bankers now face the difficult decision whether to increase interest rates to support their currencies — and risk tipping their economies into recession.

The informal talks, which began with dinner in a tightly guarded seaside hotel in this Costa Brava resort, were due to focus on plans for economic and monetary union finalised last month by a committee of central bank governors chaired by Commission President Jacques Delors.

The proposals, which have drawn protests from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, will be high on the agenda of June's EEC summit in Madrid.

The S'Agaro talks, which end this evening, will be a first opportunity for the ministers to stake out their positions on the plan aimed at single West European currency.

Under the plan, Britain, which has opposed the measures, would be allowed to keep food and baby clothing free of sales taxes.

Currently, the taxes vary widely among the countries, which has led to shoppers crossing borders to buy, with limits on the total amount of purchases, cheaper goods in a neighbouring country.

Fortress Europe Protectionism could hurt US in some cases: Hartman

NEW YORK, May 20, (AP): Some Americans fear a protectionist "fortress Europe," and a few even say US national security is at stake. But when Western Europe creates a single market by 1992, the first winners would be from the United States.

Protectionism could hurt the United States in some cases, says American consultant David Hartman. But he says "Americans will be treated every bit as 'European' as the Europeans."

"In fact, many are in an advantageous position," Hartman, chief international economist for DRI-McGraw Hill Consultants, said at a recent New York symposium on Europe 1992.

Three years before the European Economic Community hopes to complete its plan to re-invigorate its collective economy, hundreds of US companies are reassessing their positions in Europe. And many are finding that despite some obstacles, they could fare well in what likely will be a brutally competitive market that could conceivably wield great retaliatory power in trade.

That perception is spreading as consultants and roving European speech-makers fan out across the United States discussing everything from trade policy to the fate of the Western alliance. A cottage industry in newsletters and seminars is proliferating advice. American consultants and lawyers are flocking to Brussels to promote US interests in the "new Europe."

In Washington, congressional committees are hearing testimony on 1992's benefits and pitfalls. A presidential inter-agency task force is scrutinising the EEC's plans to help guide the US response.

Under the 1992 plan, the EEC wants to remove, or consolidate, a spectrum of laws on the flow of goods, services, money and people among its 12 member states — Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and West Germany. The deadline of Dec 31, 1992, may not be met, but most officials agree the process is irreversible.

Aiming for 1992, US giants such as Coca-Cola, IBM and Ford are adjusting their operations to take best advantage of the single market after years operating across European borders. Yet, it's this transnational experience that could give the big companies their edge.

"American companies will be much more effective, and will act faster in thinking 'Pan-European', than many European companies," W. Thomas Sommerlatte, head of West German operations for the US consulting firm Arthur D. Little Inc., told the New York Symposium.

Sommerlatte said many large US companies already have a pan-European image and the "multinational management" needed to capitalise on it.

"It is much more difficult for a French, German or British company to become 'European', rather than just French, German or British," he said.

Add to this Americans' already strong stake in the common market, where they employ some 2.5 million people who rack up an estimated \$500 billion in sales there annually.

"A lot of American companies today are more 'European' than a lot of European companies," Robert Hormats, vice chairman of Goldman Sachs International, added at the symposium.

"We basically feel that 1992 is far more of an opportunity than a threat, but business must study it and work with the EEC in Brussels," said Hormats, also a former assistant US secretary of state for economic affairs.

US companies also have joined a world-wide frenzy of mergers and joint ventures spurred in part by 1992 — more than \$2 billion worth of cross-border mergers took place throughout Europe in March alone.

On the other hand, Americans who face the single market solely as importers could risk the most.

"There will be big differences according to, No. 1, their size and No. 2, whether they're in or out of Europe," Ronnie Goldberg of the International Chamber of Commerce said in an interview. "Ones that remain outsiders longer" may not do as well.

Visions of a single market of 320 million people had ignited fears among some Americans that the common market would use its consolidated power to freeze US business out of a "fortress Europe."

World oil prices rise

Gasoline drops

NEW YORK, May 20, (UPI): World crude oil prices rose yesterday on technical buying and fears OPEC would not raise output as expected.

Refined products fell, however, ending a week in which gasoline dropped nearly 2 cents a gallon.

West Texas Intermediate — the benchmark US crude for immediate delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange — ended the day up 40 cents to \$20.60 a barrel, which was 51 cents above last Friday's close on the Merc.

Unleaded gasoline for immediate delivery gained 0.66 cent to close at 65.19 cents a gallon on the Merc. Despite this gain and a 1.26 cent-a-gallon advance Thursday, gasoline still lost 1.82 cents on the week.

Home-heating oil climbed 0.51 cent to 48.06 cents a gallon, a loss of 1.04 cents on the week.

Trading in the two refined products has been dominated recently by a narrowing of the

'gap' between their two prices. It spread to nearly three times its historical span when gasoline prices soared following the March 24 Alaska oil spill.

On the US gulf coast spot market, where oil is bought and sold for cash, WTI moved up 30 cents to \$20.60 a barrel, 65 cents higher than last week.

Overseas the United Arab Emirates' Dubai light — the key OPEC crude from the Middle East — jumped 13 cents to \$15.48 a barrel on the European spot market. It was 9 cents lower on the week.

In London on the international petroleum exchange, Britain's widely traded Brent crude futures contracts gained 17 cents to close at \$17.30 a barrel.

Andrew Lebow of E.D.F. Man International Futures Inc. in New York said the increase in crude prices on the Merc was driven largely by the expiration Monday of trading in June WTI contracts. "That was the major factor," he said.

KD deposit rates ease

KUWAIT, May 20, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dollar deposit rates eased in dull trade today in anticipation of an expected inflow of monthly salary payments within the next few days, dealers said.

Overnight fell to six five per cent from bids of 10 on Thursday, the last trading day in the Gulf.

Tomorrow-next and spot-next eased 1-1/2 points to eight seven, while one week eased 3/4 of a point to 8-3/4 7-3/4. Deals were reported on overnight, spot-next and tomorrow-next.

One-month to one-year maturities were mostly steady at around 9-1/4 8-3/4.

The Central Bank announced it was offering 100 million dinars (\$345 million) in 91-day treasury bills for issue on Wednesday. Because it does not roll over any

previous bills, the issue, number 53, represents new government borrowing.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar to dollar exchange rate to 0.29484/94 from 0.29464/74 on Thursday.

Meanwhile Saudi riyal inter-bank deposits were mainly steady in a typically thin market which saw some business at the short end as operators squared positions.

Dealers said quotes for spot-next funds eased to 9-3/4, 1/4 per cent from 10-1/4, 9-3/4 amid slack demand. Tomorrow-next was 10, 9-5/8 per cent, with deals reported at those levels.

One- to three-month funds were indicated steady at Thursday's levels of 9-11/16, 7/16 per cent while six-months to one-year were little changes at 9-5/8, 1/2.

Soaring inflation under control

MANAGUA, May 20, (UPI): Nicaragua's soaring inflation, which reached record heights at the end of 1988, is now "under control" but with an upward trend, Budget and Planning Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca said yesterday.

Martinez said that by the end of 1989, accumulated inflation in Nicaragua is expected to be a minimum 875 per cent and a maximum 1,069 per cent.

Nicaragua ended 1988 with a 36,600 per cent inflation rate, which experts described as the highest level in the country's and Latin America's history.

But Nicaragua's monthly inflation rate has declined steadily since December 1988, when it reached 126.6 per cent. In January, inflation was 91.8 per

cent, in February 46 per cent, in March 20 per cent and in April 12.36 per cent.

Martinez said credit granted to agricultural producers would push up the inflation level in May and June. "In May and June there will be an increase in inflation, which must not come as a surprise because inflation is already under control," said Martinez.

To brake inflation, Nicaragua's government has been periodically devaluing its currency, the cordoba, against the US dollar. On February 14, 1988, a government devaluation converted one million old cordobas to one thousand new cordobas and set an official rate exchange rate of 10,000 cordobas per dollar.

Kuwait trade volume drops

Market shows signs of mixed performance, says study

THE Alshahi Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 37.93 points with a decrease of 0.82 point — 2 per cent — from last week's average. The Alshahi Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 67.03 points with a decrease of 0.47 point — 0.70 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshahi weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 35.43 million shares at a daily average of 7.09 million shares with a decrease of 11 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 7.96 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 10.86 million shares at a daily average of 2.17 million shares with a large increase of 119 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.99 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD11.18 million at a daily average of KD2.24 million, an increase of 21 per cent over last week's daily average of KD1.85 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.386 million at a daily average of KD0.077 million, an increase of 45 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.053 million.

The market showed signs of mixed performance which was reflected on both the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti markets, with a slight inclination to the weak side in the Kuwaiti market.

It seems that the local shares market is in a state of expectation due to the possible establishment of a new parallel market and the different opinions of market dealers of the effect it might have on general share prices.

Also, other propositions are under discussion and different views concerning their contents are being spread which is leading to the present state of stagnation in the market.

"We believe that these new changes as they should have very little effect on the performance of the market. Market dealers should depend more on the actual performance of the companies that are their respective share prices. Few of the losing companies that are presently listed in the local market, still have the chance to start over again if they try to re-evaluate their financial positions and reshuffle their human resources."

No new dividend distribution for 1988 was declared this past week, and "we doubt that any company is still intending to do so," the report added.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector led at 45 per cent

of total trading of which Kuwait Finance House had the lead at 23 per cent followed by The National Bank of Kuwait at 23 per cent and Gulf Bank at 21 per cent.

Second came the services sector at 26.5 per cent of total market trading of which Mobile Telephone Systems led at 48 per cent, followed by Kuwait Commercial Markets at 44 per cent and Public Warehousing at 8 per cent.

The investment sector came third at 22.5 per cent, of which Kuwait Investment Projects had the lead at 52 per cent followed by National Investments at 42 per cent and Kuwait Pearl Investment at 6 per cent.

For the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Umm Al Quain Cement had the lead at 37 per cent of total trading, followed by Gulf Medical Projects at 29 per cent and General Arabian Investment (SHUAA) at 17 per cent.

Kuwait shareholding companies index			
	Wednesday 17/05/89	Wednesday 10/05/89	Change points
Banking Sector			
The National Bank	110.06	112.35	-2.29
The Gulf Bank	32.36	33.25	-0.89
The Commercial Bank	23.71	24.59	-0.88
Al Ahli Bank	31.79	33.30	-1.51
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	30.03	30.97	-0.94
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	29.14	29.14	—
Burgan Bank	27.75	28.74	-0.99
Kuwait Finance House	71.45	79.92	-2.47
Sector Index	46.21	47.45	-1.24
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	17.45	17.45	—
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	12.03	12.03	—
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	69.84	69.84	—
IFA	31.62	31.62	—

Al Shirawi to address APPEC meeting

SINGAPORE, May 20. (KUNA): Bahrain's Minister of Development and Industry, Yusuf Al Shirawi, will deliver a keynote address at the Asia-Pacific Petroleum Conference (APPEC) here to be attended by some 1,000 delegates from more than 40 countries from September 11-13, it was announced yesterday.

A spokesman for the conference organisers told newsmen that two other keynote addresses will be delivered by Indonesian Minister of Mines and Energy Dr Gindaudj Kartasmita and Venezuelan Minister of Energy and Mines Celestino Armas.

Last year's APPEC conference was graced by the attendance of OPEC president Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, Nigerian Minister of Petroleum Resources.

The international gathering will bring together distinguished leaders of the world oil industry to examine and discuss issues from different perspectives, the spokesman said.

Heads of national oil corporations from ASEAN and East Asian countries will also deliver country presentations on the current and future oil production and oil consumption patterns in major exporting and importing countries.

The countries to be represented at the international conference will include: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, Egypt, China, France, West Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Oman, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates and the United States.

UK inflation rate moves up to 8pc

LONDON, May 20. (AP): Britain's annual inflation rate moved up to eight per cent in April from 7.9 per cent in the previous month, boosted by higher rent and water charges, the government said today.

The rate was higher than economists had expected and it increased expectations the measure will continue to move upward rather than peak at around eight per cent as Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson had forecast.

The Labour Department said its retail price index rose 1.8 per cent in April from March.

The index stood at 114.3 in April, up from 112.3 in March and 105.8 in April 1988.

Economists had expected an annual rate of 7.7 per cent and a monthly gain of 1.4 per cent.

Employment Secretary Norman Fowler said the April rate, excluding mortgage interest payments, was 5.9 per cent. He reiterated that the government has already warned that inflation would rise before falling later in the year.

The government pushed up interest rates nine times to the current 13 per cent from 7.5 per cent last summer in an effort to control inflation. However, the resulting higher mortgage rates, which are included in the index, have had the effect of pushing up the annual inflation rate.

"Monetary policy has been tightened and will remain tight for as long as is necessary to bring inflation down," Fowler said.

The April rise mainly reflected annual price increases in rents and water charges, the department said. It added that gasoline, food and clothing prices also were higher.

Lawson said in his budget statement in March that Britain's inflation rate would peak at around eight per cent later in the year, before falling back to 5.5 per cent by the end of 1989.

However analysts now expect the rate to move above that forecast level in June and July and that it probably won't fall back much below six per cent by the fourth quarter.

Dollar extends its climb

Central banks in Europe may raise interest rates

NEW YORK, May 19. (UPI): The dollar extended its climb against key foreign currencies this week, bank-rupty hearings on strike-bound Eastern Airlines dragged on, and Ogilvy Group Inc. agreed to a buyout by British advertiser WPP Group PLC.

Propelled by positive economic news and defying central bank intervention, the dollar surged against the West German mark, the Japanese yen and other major currencies.

News that the US merchandise trade deficit shrank in March to \$3.36 billion from a revised \$9.82 billion in February propelled the dollar to more than 1.9700 marks by mid-week, the highest level since the end of 1986. The dollar also climbed to more than 139 yen, just below the favoured ceiling of 140 yen.

Market forecasts had been for a \$10.2 billion trade gap.

The government's report that consumer prices rose 0.7 per cent in April also gave the dollar an early boost on Thursday.

Figured on an annual basis, the consumer price index, which measures inflation at the retail level, rose 8.1 per cent last month, bringing inflation for the year to 6.6 per cent.

The dollar retreated later Thursday as at least 10 central banks including the Federal Reserve sold the US currency on the open market.

The market's uneasiness over the possibility that central banks in Europe may raise interest rates to narrow the gap between US and European rates also contributed to the decline.

Higher US interest rates have been a key reason for the dollar's recent surge because they boost the appeal of dollar-denominated securities.

In New York, US bankruptcy judge Burton Lifland Wednesday approved an Eastern Airlines plan to lease one of its planes to Majestic Airlines and two to American Trans Air. The strike-bound carrier will also lease 14 aircraft to Pan Am for at least three years.

Eastern also reached deals totalling \$277.5 million with UAS Invest Inc. for the sale of 15 jets and six spare engines. Lifland did not immediately rule on Eastern's request for more time to consider competing bids for its profitable northeast shuttle linking New York, Boston and Washington.

The airline wants until May 22 to evaluate offers by New York developer Donald Trump and America West Airlines Inc.

America West Airlines of Phoenix refined its \$415 million bid for the shuttle last weekend, but Eastern supports

the rival \$365 million offer from Trump.

The sale must be approved by the bankruptcy court overseeing Eastern's reorganisation.

WPP Group reached a \$864 million merger agreement with Ogilvy Group of New York, the parent of Ogilvy and Mather Advertising and Adams and Ritchie Public Relations.

The deal, reached late Monday night, will create the world's second-largest advertising company after Saatchi and Saatchi PLC, another British group.

In New York, Avon Products Inc. shares tumbled Thursday after Amway Corp., a private direct-selling company with headquarters in Ada, Michigan, said it was withdrawing its hostile \$2 billion takeover bid for the cosmetics

company. In an attempt to rebuild investor confidence, Avon issued a letter to shareholders predicting that earnings per share will rise at least 35 per cent this year as a result of cost-cutting measures.

McGraw-Hill Inc., long the subject of takeover speculation, entered into a standstill agreement with Robert Maxwell that prevents the British publishing magnate from buying into McGraw-Hill for 15 years.

The agreement sent McGraw-Hill shares into a tailspin Wednesday.

McGraw-Hill also said it will form a joint publishing venture with Maxwell Communications Inc. The Chicago venture will combine the elementary, secondary and vocational education groups of McGraw-Hill and MacMillan, a Maxwell unit.

Exxon Corp. chairman Lawrence Rawl faced sceptical shareholders and protesters at the oil giant's annual meeting Thursday in Parsippany, New Jersey.

Activists chanting "make Exxon pay" greeted shareholders before the meeting and planted mock tombstones outside bearing the names of Alaska waterways fouled by the nearly 11 million gallons of crude oil spilled into Prince William Sound by the tanker Exxon Valdez on March 24.

Rawl rejected demands he resign over his handling of the Alaska oil spill and pledged the company will complete cleanup of the spill by September.

Atlantis is the only Atlantic City casino ever to declare bankruptcy and to be declared a state licence renewal. The court order does not apply to the hotel operations of Atlantis.

Currency devaluation ruled out

Sudan rejects IMF medicine

KHARTOUM, May 20. (Reuters): Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi of Sudan, his huge country racked by civil war and natural disasters, said yesterday he would not agree to IMF cures for the economy if they made life harder for the people.

Mahdi, in an interview with Reuters, also said southern rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) must agree to talks with the government if they wanted to end the civil war that began in 1983.

"We are still talking to the IMF (International Monetary Fund), but we will not enter any agreement unless it is based on what the Sudanese economy can endure," Mahdi said.

"It is not acceptable, in my view, to solve the present economic problems at the expense of the people because they don't have enough."

Sudan, Africa's largest country, has a foreign debt estimated by Western economists at \$14 billion and an inflation rate of 80 per cent a year.

Many of the country's 25

million people face intermittent shortages of basic items and in some areas have virtually no essential services.

The IMF, in on-off talks with Sudan, pressed for a range of politically-sensitive reforms such as spending cuts, unifying a double-tier foreign exchange system and privatising loss-making state enterprises.

Mahdi said the country, which owes the IMF about \$1 billion in arrears, could not commit itself to IMF-inspired policies unless it was able to cut spending.

He ruled out a devaluation of the Sudanese pound, saying this would have to be accompanied by other measures such as spending cuts.

But he said attempts to cut spending were dependent on factors such as the cost of the civil war, rehabilitation work after floods last August and wage rises agreed last December.

"A country at war cannot have a normal economy," he said. "We are facing exceptional circumstances and we cannot reform the economy unless we can protect it

from those circumstances."

Mahdi, who began his fourth year in office this week, said his government would not observe a unilateral ceasefire declared by the SPLA rebels, fighting what they see as the domination of the Christian and animist south by the Muslim north.

"We must meet (for talks) because we will not be committed to a ceasefire or anything else that was not jointly agreed," Mahdi said.

But he added: "We decide the time limit. If there is no peace, we close that door and take up defence."

The rebels, who announced a one-month ceasefire on May 1, rejected an offer from Mahdi for talks in Addis Ababa on May 15 on terms of a truce.

Mahdi said Sudan's foreign debt, which Khartoum has not been able to service since the early 1980s, added to the country's economic problems.

"Our foreign debt is preventing us from receiving any credit facilities abroad. This is crippling us," he said.

Boeing sets business record

United places its fourth major order

SEATTLE, Washington, May 20. (AP): United Airlines placed yesterday its fourth major order for Boeing Co. jetliners in two years, buying 16 extended-range 767-300ER widebody jets and taking options on 16 more in a deal valued at \$3 billion.

With the order, Boeing has set an industry record for dollar value of planes ordered in a calendar year, \$3.1 billion for 543 aircraft. That mark, also a company record for new orders for the fifth year in a row, bettered the \$29.7 billion for 636 planes ordered for all of 1988.

Stephen M. Wolf, United chairman and president, announced the order at company headquarters in Chicago. While United does not currently fly to Europe, Wolf said the new planes

are envisioned for trans-Atlantic use.

Wolf also said United's buying spree was not over.

"A third and major order addressing our worldwide needs for both our growing Pacific service as well as for additional domestic airplanes will be forthcoming later this year," he said.

In the past two years, United, which was formed by Boeing in the 1930s, has given the Seattle-based plane manufacturer about \$23.4 billion in new business. United now has on order every type of commercial jet Boeing makes.

On April 26, United placed the largest order ever with a single manufacturer, for up to 370 Boeing planes valued at up to \$15.74 billion.

United ordered 15 747-400 jumbo jets and 21 737 twinjets in May 1987, worth a total of \$2.1 billion. In April 1988, United ordered 30 Boeing 757s and took options on 30 more, in a deal worth \$1.3 billion for the firm orders.

Boeing, which only announces figures for firm orders, placed the value of United's latest purchase at \$1.4 billion.

The 767-300ER is a two-engine widebody jet that will seat about 200 passengers in United's configuration. Wolf said the planes will be powered by Pratt and Whitney engines.

Boeing now has a firm order backlog for 1,535 jetliners, the most in company history and guaranteeing work for the company well through the mid-1990s.

\$1 billion project

Bahrain to expand aluminium plant

BAHRAIN, May 20. (Reuters): Bahrain has given the go-ahead for a billion-dollar expansion of its aluminium smelter to double capacity to 400,000 tonnes a year, industry sources said today.

They said the government, which owns 57.9 per cent of Aluminium Bahrain BSC (ALBA), had appointed US firm Bechtel Corp. as management consultants for the four-year project.

The expansion, which is in addition to a current \$130 million modernisation programme designed to boost capacity to 205,000 tonnes a year from the current 170,000 tonnes, would make ALBA the largest aluminium smelter in the region.

French firm Aluminium Pechiney would provide the technology for two new pot rooms at the smelter with a current capacity of 180,000 tonnes a year, the sources said.

Details for financing the project — estimated to cost at least a billion dollars — were still being worked out but plans included a combination of export credit, equity and commercial loans, the sources said.

A design contract was being negotiated with Bechtel and work would begin as soon as it was signed, they added.

The only other aluminium smelter in the Gulf, Dubai Aluminium, has a capacity of around 170,000 tonnes a year.

But investors in the region are planning a series of projects that promise to make the Gulf a major international power in aluminium, using cheap energy and abundant capital.

In Saudi Arabia, investors led by Jeddah-based Xenel Industries Ltd are planning a 240,000-tonne smelter for the industrial city of Yanbu.

Argentina to seek up to \$2b in economic crisis

BUENOS AIRES, May 20. (Reuters): President-elect Carlos Menem said yesterday Argentina would seek between \$1.5 billion and 2.0 billion from foreign creditors to help solve the country's most pressing economic problems.

"This (amount) is what we need to solve our most serious problems," Menem, who takes office on December 10 after winning a landslide victory in Sunday's elections, told reporters.

He said he planned to send a mission comprising representatives of his opposition Peronist Party and the governing radicals to meet creditors in the United States, although he did not say when it would leave.

Senior Radical Party politicians have attributed their crushing election defeat to the government's disastrous handling of the

economy. The soaring public deficit, inflation of over 50 per cent a month and crippling interest rates have plunged the country into one of its worst crises in history.

An overnight package of austerity measures, which raised public utility and petrol prices by 40 per cent and Value Added Tax (VAT) to 18 per cent from 15, increased agricultural export taxes, suspended export incentives on industrialised goods and cut state spending, failed to restore confidence in the ailing austral currency.

It has lost over 90 per cent of its value in five months.

In less than an hour of hectic trading the US dollar, a traditional barometer of confidence in the Argentine economy, had leapt from Thursday's closing 164 australs to 200,

although it later eased to 175 on profit taking. Foreign bankers said on Thursday it was unlikely Argentina would get any fresh funds from foreign private creditors until next year.

"Banks first want to see the steps the new government will take," one senior bank representative told Reuters.

Argentina has paid only minimal interest on its 600 billion foreign debt during the past year.

A government official yesterday confirmed reports it would receive on Monday a \$125 million loan from the central banks of Venezuela, Mexico and Brazil. Over half would go to paying off part of the country's \$180 million interest arrears with the International Monetary Fund and the rest to repay money raised on domestic markets.

Fight against inflation

Fed sees dollar strengthen as a useful weapon

New post-crash high

Wall Street cracks 2,500 level

THE dollar powered ahead this week spurred by strong institutional and corporate purchases. In spite of central bank intervention the dollar benefited by a better than anticipated trade number for March and a refusal by the Bundesbank and the Central Bank of Japan to raise interest rates in defence of their currencies.

Bonds and equities also benefited and the dollar ended the week at DM1.97 and ¥138.8, according to NBK weekly financial market review.

Industrial production rose 0.4 per cent in April as compared to a forecast rise of 0.2 per cent.

Housing starts fell by 2.7 per cent in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.361 million units from 1.397 million units in March, the lowest since December 1982.

Capacity utilisation fell 0.1 per cent in April from March and 0.3 per cent from February to 83.9. The fall is attributed to the declines in primary processing industries.

The dollar is currently determined by the greater influence of investors' asset preference over judgement on pure economic fundamentals. Capital rich economies in Europe and the Far East remain attracted to a capital-hungry US. These flows are enticed by a number of factors.

The interest rate premium remains very much in the US favour.

Political uncertainties notably in Japan and also West Germany have undermined confidence in these centres and thereby provides few alternative areas for investment.

A re-assessment of economic trends in the US where earlier concerns that the economy could be heading for a hard landing have been replaced by a more optimistic view of moderately lower economic activity with inflation under control.

Asset preference by capital transactions undoubtedly governs short-term currency movements and "we expect these forces to remain in place for the time being with the dollar well supportive if not going higher."

However it must be borne in mind that whilst the G-7 appears to be outmanoeuvred by the markets at present, decisive action by a further narrowing in interest rate differentials and reaffirmation to see a gradual improvement to the current external imbalances will ultimately lead the dollar lower.

Despite the dollar's strength and apparent slowdown in economic activity, Federal Reserve policy is likely to remain unchanged. Indeed the Federal Reserve sees the current dollar strength as a useful weapon in its fight

against the inflation. Bond and equities are anticipated to trade within a narrow range for the coming week having made successive gains in the recent past.

Trading ranges for the coming week are: DM1.93-2.00 and Yen 136-141.

Strength

Markets elsewhere remain very much influenced by what is happening to the dollar at the moment.

Sterling however has benefited by the dollar's strength remaining reasonably firm against the DM at DM3.18 and Yen 225.

This week's economic and price data however, whilst showing that the economy could be nudging lower, inflationary pressures are a long way from subsiding. Wage demands at 9.25 per cent are strongly ahead whilst labour constraints with unemployment falling to a 1980 low, suggests that with increasing industrial unrest, higher wage settlements and prices could be in prospect.

Starting ended the week at DM3.18 and £/\$1.92.

PSDR — public sector debt

repayment was \$800 million for April — the first fiscal month for 1989/90.

Unemployment fell sharply in April by a seasonally adjusted figure of 60,200. The unemployment now totals 1.86 million down by 0.1 per cent from 6.7 per cent in March.

Average earnings rose as expected 9.25 per cent in the year to March on a seasonally adjusted basis and were unchanged from February.

Industrial production rose a seasonally adjusted 0.6 per cent in March, following a 0.2 per cent fall in February. The yearly increase was 1.2 per cent.

Money supply — M0 increased 0.1 per cent to a year on year rate of 5.7 per cent, down on the 6.2 per cent registered in March. M3 increased 1 per cent in April rising to a yearly rate of 20.6 per cent, this was down on the year to March of 21.2 per cent. M4 rose 0.9 per cent in April to a yearly rate of 18.1 per cent and compares with the year to March of 18.4 per cent.

Bank lending in April was \$4.4 billion, down from March which was \$5.3 billion. Building society lending was \$7.0 billion and compares with March of \$7.8 billion.

AMMAN

	OPNG	CLSG
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.88	1.90
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	2.00	2.05
ARAB BANK	147.3	148.5
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.50	4.50
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	2.41	2.41
ARAB INSURANCE	1.09	1.08
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.62	0.62
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.06	1.11
ARAB INTER-HOTELS	1.15	1.18
ARAB JOR/INVT/BRK	2.35	2.30
ARAB PAPER COM/TKD	0.35	0.33
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	3.60	3.63
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	1.12	1.18
ARAB POTASH CO.	---	---
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	15.25	15.20
BEIT AL-MAL/BEITNA	1.10	1.08
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	31.00	30.00
CONFECY/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25
DAR AL SHAHS PRESS	0.42	0.40
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.	2.45	2.42
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.83	0.83
FINANCE/CREDIT/COOR	0.75	0.71
GARAGE OWNERS/COF	4.60	4.60
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.27	1.23
GENERAL MINING	2.10	2.10
HIMMEN MINERALS	0.75	0.75
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	1.44
IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.72	0.77
INDSTR. DEVLPT BNK	1.65	1.65
INDSTR. COM/AGR.	1.68	1.69
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75	0.75
INTERN. COM/INV	0.13	0.13
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.90	0.90
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64
ITERMED/PETRI/CHK	2.00	2.05
J. TOUR-SP COMPLEX	0.79	0.80
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	2.01	2.03
JOR ELEC. TNS	23.00	23.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.49	1.49
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22
JOR INSURANCE	1.00	1.00
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30	2.30
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	2.47	2.44
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.79	0.83
JOR LIN BRICK	0.18	0.17
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50
JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.50	2.48
JOR PAPER CARBON	3.60	3.55
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	3.70	3.85
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	2.19	2.18
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.79	1.72
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.40
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.98	0.98
JOR SECURITY CORP.	1.12	1.11
JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.07	2.17
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	2.38	2.43
JOR WORSTED MLL	4.60	4.50
JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.91	0.91
JOR. PETROLIUM REF	7.84	7.84
JOR. FRENCH INS.	5.45	5.45
JOR. INV. FIN. CORP	2.50	2.50
JORDAN GULF REAL	0.36	0.36
JORDAN DAIRY	0.96	0.96
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.17	1.18
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94	0.95
JORDAN INSURANCE	3.41	3.40
JORDAN ISLAMIC BNK	1.99	1.98
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.40	1.40
JORDAN TANNING	2.05	2.06
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.71	0.71
MACH/EGU/RENT/MAIN	0.78	0.81
MINS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
MID EAST EXCHANGE	1.17	1.11
MIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.48	0.50
MIDDEL EAST INS	2.00	2.02
MINERALS RESEARCH	0.75	0.75
MID. INV. INVEST CO	2.60	2.73
MID/CABLE/WIRE/NF	2.60	2.73
NATIONAL ARIJA INS	1.30	1.30
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.92	0.96

Ambassador sweetums

Shirley Temple Black still sparkling

By Joy Billington

As she sat on her chair talking to Terry Wogan on the BBC recently, her red spike heels swinging clear of the floor below her purple "power" suit, Shirley Temple Black, at five and a half feet and aged 61, still echoes the world's first movie superstar, Lili St. Cyr, as she is sometimes called in the United States.

In London to promote her book *Child Star*, she was "sparkling" her way around town, just like her mother taught her when she became a starlet at three-and-a-half years.

"Sparkle? What does that mean?" a BBC interviewer asked. "It meant concentrate," she answered. Whatever you called it, there she was, putting on a flawless performance — engaging in eye contact with the interviewers, using their first names frequently, brown eyes sparkling as though selling a book was actually fun.

"Call me Shirley," she grinned when asked, and then she was off and running, dredging up a new variety of anecdotes from that remarkable childhood when she was the number-one box office attraction of the world. "Ambassador Black," her official Washington persona, was set aside for her book promotion here and in the United States, which has little to do with her life in politics and diplomacy.

An interest in politics developed during her second marriage. In the sixties she ran for Congress, but lost her California Primary. President Nixon later appointed her a delegate to the United Nations and ambassador to Ghana. President Ford made her United States chief of protocol and she is soon expected to be named as ambassador to Czechoslovakia.

This new appointment by President Bush would come as a reward for political support, as a member of his national steering and finance committees, during the 1988 election campaign.

As a liberal Republican in the Bush wing of the party, she suffered a long period in the political doldrums during the eight years of Reagan's presidency.

She said nice things about him when asked about their one movie together (*That Hagen Girl*, 1948), but the silence from the White House remained deafening.

Asked, now, whether there was bad blood between her and Reagan she laughs: "I think it was because we made such a poor movie together." Then, however, she confesses: "I really don't know the answer, although probably it wasn't brilliant, in front of a large audience at a Dallas Convention luncheon in 1984; to say that I could reassure them all... that Ronald Reagan was a great kisser. Mrs Reagan didn't look very happy about it! Then there was another occasion where I said that I wasn't a Reaganite, back in 1981. So, right off, we all knew where we stood."

She had, however, kept up with the State Department, where her credentials with the career foreign service were sound. After every presidency, when the political appointees reluctantly relinquish their ambassadorships and return to their townships, one or two are "adopted" by the career people at the State Department, as she was after the Nixon-Ford



Shirley Temple Black in London recently and below, the cover jacket of her autobiography.

appointments. So during the Reagan years she flew in regularly from her home near San Francisco to conduct seminars at the State Department for outgoing new ambassadors.

One piece of advice she has always given is "be yourself." When the flattery begins, she cautions — speaking from a lifetime of the stuff — and the flags fly on the big black lines, "they can get a bit above it all, imperious. So you should be yourself — with one exception." Personal opinions that conflict with American policy must be suppressed, particularly when a political appointee is perceived as someone who has the ear of the president.

So, even without the ear of Ronald Reagan, she held her own quietly, using the balance of her time to write her book — which covers her life to the age of 26. This first volume — (she is outlining the second) — meant researching her own childhood and poring over the hundreds of scrapbooks her mother and two secretaries had kept and putting dates to her own memories of meeting famous people.

She calls her book "a love story about my mother, about my profession, and about Charlie," her husband of 38 years. The last two words are "thanks, Mom," and there is no doubt the motivation to set the record straight arises from biographers' pictures of Gertrude Temple as a pushy, manipulative stage mother.

The book, which is long on detail and short on psychological interpretation, is written with characteristic cheerfulness. Through the years of adulation that came in the depression, when President Roosevelt claimed that Americans could forget their troubles "by looking at the smiling face of a baby," what saved Shirley Temple from vanity and self obsession was the solid common sense and humour that has ruled her life.



Shirley Temple Black in London recently and below, the cover jacket of her autobiography.

It may be impossible for anyone under 50 to remember the phenomena that was Shirley Temple. Hollywood was still young, and from their own backyard they plucked out a three-and-a-half-year-old mop-top and made her into the world's top box office star.

The daughter of a Santa Monica bank manager, she had made eight "Baby Burlesk" movies by the time she was five. By the time she was seven, in 1935, she was earning Twentieth Century-Fox about \$1 million a picture.

The fortune she earned in her years of stardom was squandered by her father, a matter of almost \$3.5 million. She only discovered there was not much "fortune" left when she married Charles Black, the well-bred San Francisco former naval officer who met and courted her in 12 days in Hawaii in 1950 as she recovered from an unhappy first marriage to film star John Agar.

Her father's revelation came as a great shock, she admits, but there was nothing to be done "because the money was gone." She kept her loss a secret for as long as her mother and father lived, and she and George Temple never referred to the matter in the years she nursed him, up to his death in 1980. In the thirties, though, little girls around the world slept in rag curlers supposed to produce 56 lustrous and bouncing curls. Great names beat a path to her door. She was the most famous child on earth.

Hers was a middle-brow art from start to finish. Critics often scorned her. Graham Greene despised the "dimpled depravity" he perceived in the early movies, a phrase that resulted in a successful libel suit against him. Recently, Bernard Levin took a swipe at "that horrible little creature that people my age still recall with a shudder."

Yet millions of fans admired her charm and naturalness, and the Mom-and-apple pie American-ness of her spirit.

This quality, so particularly offensive to intellectuals, was what appealed to millions around the world as much as to the folks back home — who this year kept *Child Star* on the New York Times best-seller list for 26 weeks.

Thousands turned out at every book signing in the United States and in London she has been dogged by



Small group of fans.

Her mail bag still includes about five letters a week from British fans, and as she "sparkled" for them on the Wogan show, projecting like Gertrude Temple once taught her, she must have stirred many memories.

The great accomplishment of her life, though, is that she kept her feet so firmly planted on the ground. As she says in her book: "I just stood there in my socks, paid attention and worked with an uncluttered sense of purpose."

Child Star is published by Headline, £14.95

Master spy Philby died a happy man

By Michael Conlon

CHICAGO, (Reuter): Kim Philby died a happy man and unrepentant spy last year, feeling Mikhail Gorbachev had returned to the communist ideals that lured him into becoming a Soviet agent, according to the author of a new book.

Phillip Knightley, the last Western journalist to interview Philby before his death last May in Moscow at the age of 76, said the one-time British intelligence officer was a dedicated communist to the end who missed little of life in the West save English mustard and London gossip.

Knightley's book on Philby, *The Master Spy* has been published, or will be soon, in the United States, Britain, Holland, Israel, Spain and Japan.

"He felt that what was happening (under Gorbachev's domestic reforms) now was the communism that he devoted himself to and committed himself to when he was 21, and what had occurred in between was the aberration," Knightley said in a recent interview.

"He said it became clear that some nasty things had occurred under (Soviet leader Josef) Stalin, but elected to hang on in there hoping or confident that the principles of the revolution would outlive the monstrosities of one individual."

"And that was the faith he felt had been justified... Philby said they'd gotten back to true communism."

Philby betrayed secrets to the Soviet Union for 30 years and wreaked untold damage on Western intelligence services before fleeing to Moscow in 1951. He was the mainstay of a three-man spy ring that had its origins at Cambridge University in the early 1930s.

His partners, Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, were unmasked 12 years before Philby was revealed as the 'third man'.

Philby's duplicity was especially devastating because he was in charge of Soviet intelligence for the British and at one time was thought to be in line to head his country's entire intelligence operation.

Knightley, a special correspondent for London's Sunday Times for 21 years, interviewed Philby over the course of several days beginning in January 1988. Philby died on May 11 last year.

Asked if he thought Philby agreed to the interview after avoiding Western reporters for years, because he wanted to explain himself, Knightley said:

"I think he wanted to explain himself, yes. Two or three pieces in papers and books and everything had got to him... he said he enjoyed (spy novelist) John Le Carré's first one or two books and then Le Carré had made everything far too complicated."

He couldn't follow the books, and he said they were all unlike any intelligence operation he'd ever been involved in and he thought Le Carré had wandered away from the real world. But some of the things Le Carré had written about... had hurt him. He wanted to say something in defence of himself."

"And then there'd been a piece in a Canadian paper which absolutely stunned him, that said he was ill and broke and wandering the streets of Moscow and desperate to get back to Britain. I think that was the lever he used to persuade the KGB to let him see me."

In the book Knightley gives a glimpse of Philby living a comfortable life, happy with his fourth wife, Rufe.

He said the interview was also the result of 20 years of letter writing during which Knightley sought the story.

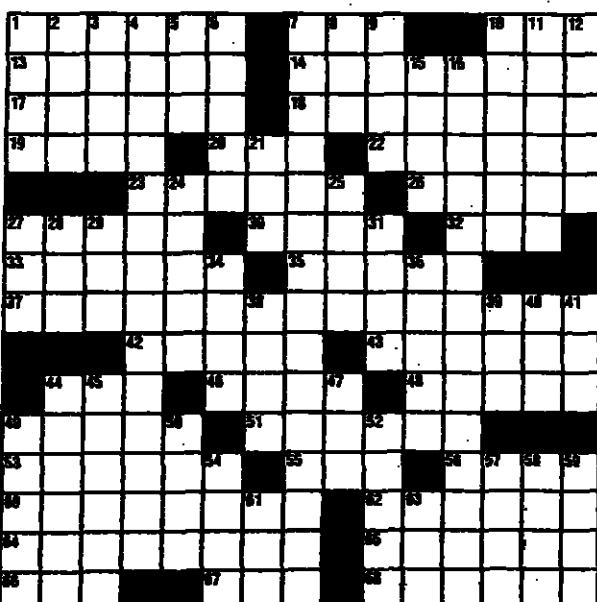
"I think I wore him down," he said. "I think when he realized he was ill and might die he thought he might like to have a few words."

Knightley said Philby admitted to having second thoughts during the years that Leonid Brezhnev was the Soviet leader, saying it was a stupefying period "that made him wonder whether he'd made the right decision."

Philby's standing in Soviet intelligence circles picked up again when Yuri Andropov, for whom he once worked, assumed power.

"When Gorbachev arrived, he was absolutely delighted," Knightley said of Philby. "I think he died a happy man. His new wife obviously meant a lot to him and he was back in the centre of attention again."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Snoopy, for example
 - 7 Little devil
 - 10 One — customer
 - 13 Go to court
 - 14 Giving witness
 - 17 Adds more seed
 - 18 American dessert
 - 19 Pawn
 - 20 Actor Richardson
 - 22 Delivered, as a bill from Congress to the President
 - 23 Plays the host
 - 26 Call to a bellhop
 - 27 Landslide debris
 - 30 Part of a leg
 - 32 Positive answer
 - 33 Actress Mimieux
 - 35 Discharge
 - 37 King who called for a horse
 - 42 "Sesame Street" resident
 - 43 Taken care of
 - 44 Butter portion
 - 46 Makes a mistake
 - 48 Betel
 - 49 Namesakes of Adam's third son
 - 51 Having many hairs: Comb. form
 - 53 Loose
 - 55 "— bin ein Berliner"
 - 56 Eat like a mouse
 - 60 Barbecue item
 - 62 K
 - 64 Aggressive
- DOWN
- 65 Irish dog
 - 66 They, in Paris
 - 67 Like Winnie
 - 68 Hydrocarbon found in natural gas
 - 1 Shakespeare, for one
 - 2 Sword
 - 3 Church feature
 - 4 King who lost the colonies
 - 5 Partner of order
 - 6 Miss Dismore of fiction
 - 7 Ruler who acted as barber
 - 8 Do housework
 - 9 Young seals
 - 10 Walk quietly
 - 11 Liver's companions
 - 12 Representative
 - 15 Musical sign
 - 16 King who married often
 - 21 DDE's opponent
 - 24 Fix the roof
 - 25 Sound of regret
 - 27 Mid. East land
 - 28 Lili plus Lili
 - 29 Play rm.
 - 31 Society page words
 - 34 Sea bird
 - 36 Chest: Comb. form
 - 38 Gossip
 - 39 Tourist stopover
 - 40 1 or 66
 - 41 Speckle
 - 44 Correspondent of a sort
 - 45 Fingerness
 - 47 Serpiner
 - 49 Japanese fish dish
 - 50 Understands
 - 52 Author: Mary Ellen
 - 54 Used a pencil
 - 57 Part of N.B.
 - 58 Last word
 - 59 Lived
 - 61 Martini, for one
 - 63 Asian holiday

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

FORMS HULA COMB
ABOUT IRIS AVER
DITTO DELL MADE
SHIRLEYTEMPLES
MEAT SEE SAT
TAOS AWR PTA
ESME SATS ALTAR
SHIRLEYMACLAINE
TETRA SETA INNS
APT SUP NEAT
ASK ERN ROE
SHIRLEYANNGRAU
PALE ALAIN RAISE
ERLE TORN EMDEN
THISS SINEE TISAIRS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
TAKE THE SIMPLE LINE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K Q 7 5 4
♥ Q J 4
♦ Void
♣ A K J 7 3

WEST EAST

♠ A J 6 2 ♠ 10 9 8 3
♥ 10 9 8 3 ♥ Void
♦ K J 8 ♦ Q 9 7 6 4 2
♣ 9 5 ♣ Q 10 4

SOUTH

♠ Void
♥ A K 7 6 5 2
♦ A 10 5 3
♣ 8 6 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

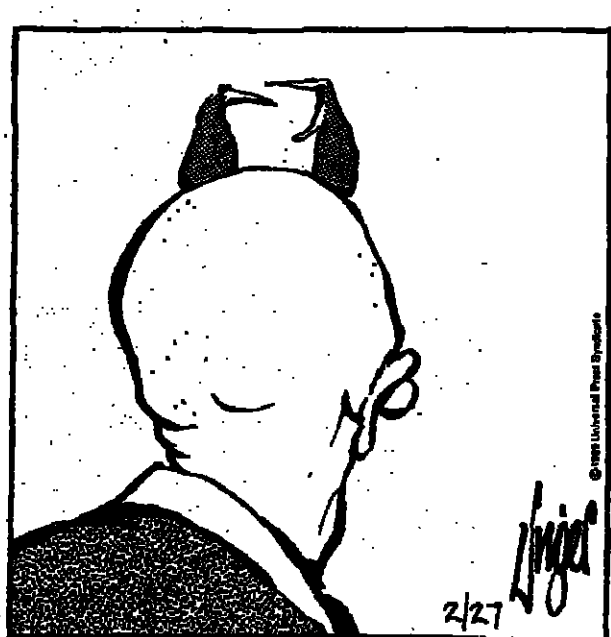
Don't look for some abstruse line to fulfill your contract when there is some relatively straightforward solution at hand. Test your technique on this little teaser after West leads a trump and East discards a diamond on the first trick.

Once South confirmed a six-card suit by rebidding two hearts over one spade, North took charge. While Blackwood with a void is un-

usual, there is some slight justification on this auction. South could hardly have less than the ace-king of hearts or two aces and the king of hearts for his opener and rebid, and North was not interested in a grand slam opposite a minimum.

This hand is really little more than an exercise in counting. If clubs are 3-2, as is normal, declarer has six trump tricks, one diamond and four clubs, for a total of 11. A 12th trick can be obtained via a diamond ruff. However, there is an entry problem to the closed hand because of the 4-0 trump split. Declarer can't afford to come to hand with a spade ruff for a club finesse. If it loses, he would not have enough entries to return to hand for a diamond ruff and also to draw trumps when East forces him to ruff a second spade prematurely.

The simple solution is to win the trump lead in dummy and duck a club at trick two! Suppose East wins and returns a spade. Declarer ruffs, ruffs a diamond on the table and cashes the high heart. He can get back to hand with another spade ruff to draw the last two trumps and cash the ace of diamonds. A club to the board nets the rest of the tricks as long as the suit behaves.



"Eighty years old and he doesn't have a gray hair in his head."

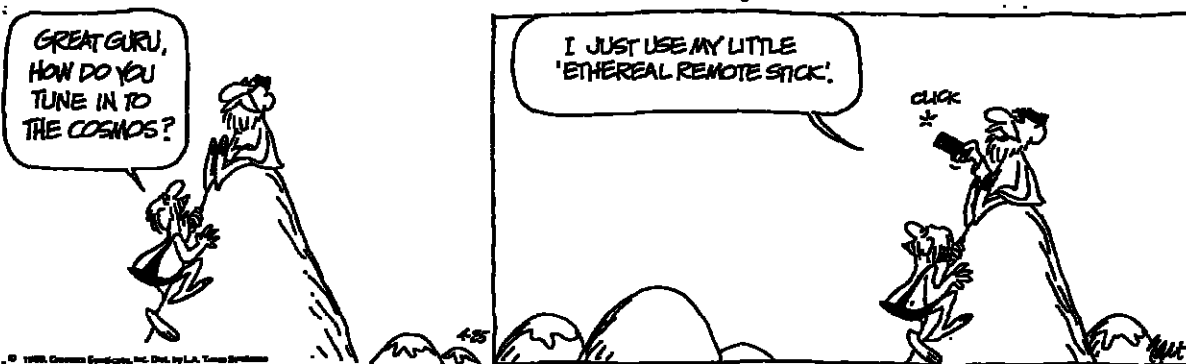
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will tend to become involved in what does not really concern you. You should try to take your mind off work. Do not spend all day playing with a hobby. Be prudent.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

A temptation to spend more than you can afford must be curbed. You should keep an open mind towards changes, but not make them just for the sake of change. Mars's influence will help you to deal with the day's problems.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)

You should have just a little more faith in yourself. Take better care of your health, make sure that you do not get things out of proportion. Be reasonable.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

You will tend to be a little forgetful so do not rely on your memory alone. Your lucky numbers are 18 and 32. You would do better to act more surely. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be frugal.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be able to put a good idea into practice. This is a good day for those in love. You should not delay something you know should be done now. Be loyal.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You should try to look at things a little more objectively. The Moon's better influence will help you to take a more sanguine view of things. You will feel better than of late. Do not do anything that you do not think is right. Be cordial.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)

You will be able to do something more practical and advantageous, to you. Try not to take everything quite so personally. Do show just a little more goodwill. Be prompt.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)

You will be in a better mood. You will be able to devote some time to a subject that is of interest to you. However some necessary chores must not be neglected. Be tactful.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

The Sun's better influence will help you to deal with a current problem. You will be better able to relax. Try to consider things from other people's point of view too. Be tactful.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You should not try to do too many things all at once. A while spent out of doors will do you good. You should not allow yourself to think negatively. Be sincere.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You would do well to take a new look at the way you have been doing certain things. The Moon's influence will help you to make the right decision. You will get on well with those close to you. Be reasonable.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You should take your mind off work for the day and do your best to relax. You would do well not to involve yourself in an argument between friends of yours. Take the best possible care of your personal hygiene. Be patient.

FILIPINO DIGEST

SNIPPETS

CEBU CITY: About 10 suspected government militiamen armed with rifles strafed and burned five houses and killed three people.

Police said the incident took place late Wednesday in the remote village of Kalunasan on the outskirts of this city.

Village chief Patricio Rosaroso said the unidentified assailants, armed with carbines and Garand rifles, set fire to a cluster of houses and sprayed them with gunfire to prevent people from fleeing. The firing killed three and wounded two farmers, he said.

Five houses made of coconut leaves and other light materials, quickly burned to the ground, while three others were damaged, Rosaroso added.

The assailants were suspected to be members of the government's Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Units because they were wearing fatigues and combat boots.

Another resident, who did not wish to be identified, said Communist New People's Army guerrillas who pass by the area, wear loosely fitted uniforms and rubber slippers or sneakers.

Fidela Abapo, wife of one of those killed, also said a government militiaman threatened to kill people in the area last week on suspicion that they were rebel sympathizers. The militiaman's sister-in-law was killed by suspected rebels near the area last month, Abapo added.

The Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Units were organized last year to help the military in the 20-year war against communist rebels.

★ ★ ★

BULACAN: A basketball game turned into a bloody scene when a player was shot dead and another was seriously wounded by a drunk CIS agent in Barangay Camalig, Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Killed was Clarito Moraga, wounded was Raul Trinidad, both of Barangay Camalig, police said.

Moraga got three gunshot wounds in the chest, neck and right shoulder.

Trinidad suffered bullet wounds in the abdomen, chest and right legs.

Police identified the suspect as Caloy Mananzala, who escaped during the commotion.

Investigation showed that Mananzala, armed with .45 pistol, and an unidentified companion entered the basketball court and without any reasons shot the two players.

★ ★ ★

BULACAN: Two unidentified rebels were killed and another was captured in an encounter with PC soldiers yesterday afternoon at Sitio Mulaing Matanda, Barangay Tarcen, Baliuag, Bulacan.

The soldiers' leader, Capt Emilio Sarmiento, said two carbines and an M-16 rifle were left behind by other rebels.

The bodies of the victims were taken to the Baliuag town hall. The captive is undergoing interrogation at the 175th PC Company headquarters.

★ ★ ★

KALOOKAN: The dreaded headcutter gang who had killed at least 10 people in Kalookan City struck again.

Police found the gang's latest victim beside the Tullahan River in GISIS Village, Kalookan at about 2 pm.

Police said the victim was headless and armless, was clad only in white briefs and was about 5'3" tall.

The following morning, a dead man was found inside a sack on C-3 Road in Dagat-Dagatan, also in Kalookan City.

The man had six stab wounds in the body. His feet were found with straw and he had strangulation marks.

★ ★ ★

BULACAN: A dead man was dumped along the national road in Barangay Panghulo, Obando, Bulacan.

Police believed the victim was "salvaged." The dead man is about 30 to 35 years old, with a moustache, curly hair, and an amputated left arm.

He had tattoos, of "Batang City Jail," "Cobra" and "Devil" on him. Police said he must have been killed by strangulation.

★ ★ ★

QUEZON CITY: A suspected snatcher who was trying to escape after grabbing a woman's bag was bumped and run over by a dump truck in Quezon City.

Michael Castro, of 1143 Antipolo St Sempaloc, Manila, was still clutching the handbag, which he earlier snatched from one Rosalina Ojeda, 28, when he died on Aurora Blvd in Cubao.

Ojeda told police that she was in Cubao-bound passenger jeepney, when Castro suddenly came running from nowhere and grabbed her bag.

★ ★ ★

SEVEN hooded men barged into a house in Kalookan City hogtied its occupants and carted away assorted appliances and clothing worth P100,000.

They used the Ford Fiera with plate No. NCV-701 of the homeowner Elmo Flores, 31, as a getaway car.

Flores told Major Florencio Sanchez of the Kalookan police that he and his family were having dinner when the armed group barged in.

Flores said they were all ordered at gun-point to lie face down on the floor and hogtied.

"Pagkatapos noon ay isa-isa nilang hinakot ang mga gamit namin sa bahay patina ang mga damit namin," Flores told police investigator Pfc. Arsenio Alilam.

★ ★ ★

BULACAN: A farmer was killed and three others were injured when a speeding Ford Sierra bumped them on Dona Remedios diversion road in Bulacan.

Police identified the dead man as Carlito Pancho, of Barangay Sta. Barbara, Baliuag.

Injured were Restituto Ventura, 42, and his two sons Allan, 3, and Florentino 6, of Barangay Tarcen.

Pancho was on a bicycle when hit from behind the speeding Fiera, driven by Romulo Resurreccion, of Kahilum St, Pandacan, Manila.

After hitting the bicycle, the Fiera hit another bicycle carrying Venturas.

Resurreccion surrendered to police after the accident.

★ ★ ★

DAVAO CITY: Two of three farm labourers of former Senator Alejandro Almendras, who have been missing since April 25, were found beheaded Wednesday in Sitio Edong, Barangay Sibulan in Sta Cruz, Davao del Sur, some 30 kilometres south of this city.

This was learned yesterday from Commission on Human Rights (CHR) southern Mindanao regional office based in this city.

CHR regional director Dominador Calamba said the headless bodies of Danilo Pantoliano and Robert Ancos were identified through their clothes by Rofel Manulat, Almendras' plantation manager.

The two and Benigno Gutierrez, who is still missing, were picked up last April 25 by uniformed men while eating lunch inside the Sibulan, Catholic chapel.

Calamba sent CHR investigator to Sibulan after Davao City Councillor Alexis Almendras officially complained to the CHR that some farm workers of his father have disappeared at the height of the military operations against communist rebels in Sibulan and neighbouring Sta Cruz barangays during the last week of April.

★ ★ ★

PANGASINAN: A wife of a Constabulary sergeant was shot dead by unidentified armed men, believed to be communist rebels inside the family residence in Barangay Minien, Sta. Barbara, Pagnasinan Tuesday, according to the Constabulary.

A PC report said the armed men shot and killed Rosemarie Licatua, 33, wife of Sgt. Melandro Licatua of the 151st PC Company, and then fled with her husband's car, 38 revolver and two hand grenades.

Sgt. Licatua, at the time of the incident, was on duty at the 151st PC Company Headquarters in Tayug. His wife and four children were the only ones left at their house.

Sgt. Licatua said he believed the killer were members of the "Agaw Armas" of the New People's Army (NPA).

Previous to the incident, he said, his wife told him of several suspicious persons reconnoitering near their houses as if they were studying every movement of the Licatua family.

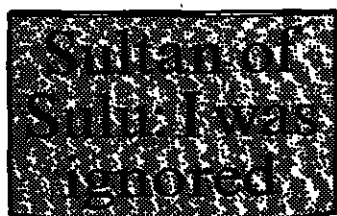
★ ★ ★

A MANILA councillor yesterday accused some Manila City Hall detachment policemen of harassing licensed sidewalk vendors.

Councillor Rogelio de la Paz (6th district) also questioned the arrest by police of the vendors.

"These vendors are earning legally. Why should our police officers harass them?" De la Paz said in a privilege speech.

"Dapat lang na alam ng mga tauhan ng pulisya natin kung sino ang legal at hindi," he said.



SULTAN Mohammad Jamalul Kiram III of Sulu and North Borneo yesterday accused the Aquino administration of betraying the sultanate's trust by not consulting the administrator of all the heirs on the decision to drop the Philippine claim to Sabah.

Kiram III told Sen. Leticia Shahani that with the death of his father Punjungan Kiram, he was made to take his place.

He said he had not authorized anybody to speak for the heirs, more so Princess Denchurian because "no woman can become a sultan without the consent of the sultan."

Kiram III warned that should all peaceful efforts fail, his group will appeal their case to the Organization of Islamic Conference.

He added that should the government follow Aquino's decision to abandon the claim to Sabah without a just and comprehensive settlement his group will have to appeal to other international organizations.

★ ★ ★

Labour leaders said the plan to go on nation-wide strike, which would be the second under Aquino's term, would be dropped if Congress granted a P30 across-the-board raise.

Democrito Mendoza, TUCP president, said leaders of the Labour Advisory Consultative Council and the TUCP would meet at the Asian Institute of Tourism in Quezon City to discuss the details of the strike.

The date and duration of the strike could still be changed depending on the outcome of the meeting, he said.

It's all systems go, said Nick Elman, KMMU spokesman, when asked about strike preparation. Homer Punzalan of the TUCP, which claims 1.3 million members, said they were ready to launch a nation-wide work stoppage as early as two weeks ago.

★ ★ ★

Getting rid of rubbish in Quezon

Hi-tech garbage disposer

A P618-MILLION garbage incinerator which can also produce electricity will soon be built in Quezon City, Mayor Brigido R. Simon Jr. said.

Simon said the incinerator will be constructed on a 9.39 hectare lot near the Barangay Payatas dumpsite.

Simon said the construction of the incinerator will be financed by a Taiwanese group through the Philippine-based Johnson & Phillips Trading and Services (J&P).

Expected to be operational in 1992, the incinerator aims to solve the garbage disposal problem of the city.

An incinerator reduces garbage to ashes. In the process, it produces substances such as methane gas, organic fertilizer and asphalt.

Councillor Leo Paras, project proponent, also said: "Twelve megawatts of electricity can be

generated from 300 to 900 tons of refuse — enough to light up the whole of Quezon City," Paras said.

The Manila Electric Company has earlier offered to buy the electricity generated by the plant.

The government, Simon said, spends P94,939.20 for its daily garbage disposal.

With the introduction of the

★ ★ ★

Low-cost homes for Bicol

Big development under way

SOME 4,600 units of low-cost houses intended for private and government employees have been programmed for construction in three provinces in the Bicol region.

The project is one of the biggest low-cost housing development programmes to be undertaken outside of Metropolitan Manila.

Primary beneficiaries of the projects are Pag-IBIG Fund members.

The Manila-based LCE Construction Inc. signed last week an agreement with Our Lady's Foundation Inc., a non-stock non-profit entity headed by Monsignor Arnolfo S. Arcilla, for the housing projects in Legaspi City, Virac, Catanduanes, and Sorsogon, Sorsogon.

The foundation is one of Bicol's major real estate owner-developers. It has so far completed more than 2,000 housing units in line with the government's socialised housing activity.

A total of 4,650 units of detached, duplex and row houses structures will be constructed under a five-year programme which would cost more than P340 million. In Sorsogon, Sorsogon, 2,301 units have been programmed to be built. In Virac, Catanduanes, 1,895 units will be constructed, while in Legaspi City, 781 units will be constructed.

LCE Construction project manager Rommel Madrid said that three types of housing units will cost between P75,000 to P150,000 which are affordable to rural-based employees.

★ ★ ★

Good news on corn production

CORN production during the first quarter of the year increased by six per cent — from 770,750 metric tons during the same period in 1988 to 820,423 metric tons.

However, although the national output grew, seven regions suffered substantial drops in harvests, according to Hermingilido Montalvo, chairman of the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on Cereals, Fish and Feeds (IATW-GCFF) of the National Agriculture and Fishery Council (NAFC).

Corn output increased in Central Mindanao, which recorded an over 14 per cent increase in output from 164,215 metric tons to 187,155 metric tons; Cagayan Valley, by 12 per cent from 175,043 metric tons to 195,190 metric tons; Southern Mindanao by 23 per cent from 64,136 metric tons to 78,768 metric tons; and the Bicol region, by 29 per cent from 13,651 metric tons to 17,551 metric tons.

Output this quarter (from April to June) is expected to increase by as much as 14 per cent or by 44,729 metric tons from 312,361 metric tons in the April-June period in 1988 to 357,089 metric tons in the April-June period in 1988 to 357,089 metric tons for the same period this year.

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Peso rate at P21.57

THE reference rate of the peso to the US dollar stayed at P21.57. There was no transaction at the foreign exchange centre of the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

★ ★ ★

DOLE evolves strategy

How to curb labour strikes ...

By Emmanuel V. Bernardo

THE Department of Labour and Employment believes it can reduce by 20 per cent the strikes declared in 1990 and by 15.2 per cent the number of strike notices filed by various labour unions in the same year.

According to the DOLE, these objectives can be attained under its new strategies on preventing and resolving labour disputes.

Included in the new DOLE programme of action are:

1. Non-adversarial and voluntary conflict resolution such as preventive mediation, conciliation, and plant level mechanisms like voluntary arbitration and the grievance machinery.

2. Use of compulsory arbitration only as a last resort.

3. Preventive measures such as labour and management co-

operation arrangements from plant and community to sectoral, regional and national levels and the launching of labour information campaigns for both the organised and non-organised sectors.

4. Intensive research, information and training activities.

The DOLE said it has also formulated strategies and plans aimed at further democratising participation in policy-making.

Such steps include tripartite and multi-sectoral consultations, and review and formulation of policies to respond to the needs of the non-organised sectors in labour.

With these strategies, the DOLE believes it can raise the number of existing unions from 4,085 this year to 4,092 in 1990 for an increase of 20 per cent.

At the same time, the DOLE

★ ★ ★

Manila owes \$1 million in legal fees

Commissioner Augusto Villarin said the PCGG was still planning to file criminal cases against the Marcoses.

"We will prepare the cases for filing unless higher interests dictate otherwise," Villarin said.

"There's no blocking force, only a hierarchy of values," he added without elaborating.

During the press briefing, Caparas disclosed that the PCGG paid three US law firms handling real estate cases in California and New York over \$250,000 in "back fees" last year.

The firms were being paid on a contingency basis, he said. "We call the arrangement payable when able."

Citing the work of the foreign-based lawyers, Caparas said the indictment of the Marcoses under the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) was made possible through the efforts of PCGG lawyers in California and New York.

In Switzerland, several Italian and French lawyers were co-ordinating "movements in the legal front," he said, adding that government lawyers in Switzerland were instrumental in "our legal victories over Mr Marcos and his lawyers."

Demand for wage increase

Nation-wide strike set for June 1

By Jim Gomez

THE country's largest trade unions have scheduled a nation-wide strike on June 1 to press Congress to approve their demand for a P30 across-the-board wage increase earlier rejected by President Aquino.

The strike, scheduled for only a day, was set by the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, but was supported by other labour groups, including the left-wing Kilusang Mayo Uno.

Labour leaders said the plan to go on nation-wide strike, which would be the second under Aquino's term, would be dropped if Congress granted a P30 across-the-board raise.

Democrito Mendoza, TUCP president, said leaders of the Labour Advisory Consultative Council and the TUCP would meet at the Asian Institute of Tourism in Quezon City to discuss the details of the strike.

The date and duration of the strike could still be changed depending on the outcome of the meeting, he said.

It's all systems go, said Nick Elman, KMMU spokesman, when asked about strike preparation. Homer Punzalan of the TUCP, which claims 1.3 million members, said they were ready to launch a nation-wide work stoppage as early as two weeks ago.

★ ★ ★

Students stampede into the Palacio Del Gobernador.

Students see red

Protest over tuition

By Jun Alano

SOME 50 members of the militant League of Filipino Students (LFS) barged inside the Education Department building and splashed red paint on the lobby's floor and walls last week.

"The students were protesting pending tuition increases," they surprised security guards manning the entrance of the Palacio Gobernador in Intramuros and forced their way into the building.

Some of the protesters managed to scribble slogans on the glass doors leading to the lobby, while others splashed paint on the walls although much of the red paint (liquefied red cement) they brought was spilled on the floor.

Robert de Castro, LFS national capital region adviser, speaking outside the building after the siege, warned that they would next strike "right on top of (Secretary Lourdes) Quinsumbang's desk."

The protesters started the lightning rally about 2.20 pm and marched away shortly before 3 pm after holding a brief programme in front of the building, witnessed by shocked visitors and onlookers.

Various student organisations said the action signals the start of more protests against impending increases in college tuition this year.

Metro Manila LFS head Bong Mangahas also called for the rejection of the subsidy bill now pending in Congress, and said more "symbolic sieges" on offices of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) can be expected.

Student leaders from big Metro Manila schools said in a press conference shortly before the "siege" that increases have been announced in their respective schools without any consultation.

★ ★ ★

Albano urges: PAP review

MANILA: House Minority Floorleader Rodolfo B. Albano urged an immediate review of the multi-billion-dollar Philippine Aid Plan (PAP).

Reacting to a Senate expose on the "grand deception" that allegedly characterized the formulation of the PAP, Albano said: "We have nothing to lose. We have everything to gain by placing the PAP under scrutiny; lest, it might only worsen already critical economic and political conditions obtaining in the country."

He said: "The PAP should not be finalised in haste in time for the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita just because his country is a big potential donor. The plan must never prejudice our nation and our people."

★ ★ ★

More local powers sought

TAYTAY, Rizal: Gov. Rey San Juan is seeking a more realistic and practical form of local government autonomy.

San Juan suggested that provincial governments be given the power to adopt their own tax policies. He noted that at present, the power to impose new taxes is exercised by the national government.

"There is so much centralisation of power in this country that local government units have nothing to do when it comes to the promulgation of tax policies," he said.

★ ★ ★

Top radio journalist

MANILA: Radio announcer-commentator Rey Langit of DZRH was chosen by the Rotary Club of Manila as Outstanding Radio Journalist of the Year.

Other members of media who received special awards include Jessica Sojo of GMA-7 and Belinda Olivares-Cumanan.

Club president Arsenio "Archit" Bartolome will hand over the awardees a cash prize of P30,000 and a trophy each.

★ ★ ★

Guzman Institute of Technology

one of the pioneers in vocational-technical education in the country, is offering scholarship grants to deserving public school students for school year 1989-90.

To qualify, a high school graduate of any public school must have an average of at least 80. The written exam is scheduled for May 10, covering I.Q. aptitude, with emphasis on science and technology.

Benefits will include free tuition for any selected course or area of specialization. Offered are B.S. in industrial education, B.S. in secretarial administration, telephone operator course, receptionist, Switchboard and other technical course.

The scholarship grants are in memory of the late Z.P. de Guzman, GIT founder.

★ ★ ★

Official's co-operation asked

IMUS, Cavite: A top constabulary officer in this province has stressed the importance of close co-ordination and co-operation between the military and local officials and civic groups in the government's peace and order drive.

Speaking before the members of the Rotary Club of Cavite East here recently, Lt. Col. Nicetas Katigbak, Cavite PC-INP chief, said the military's drive against lawlessness will not succeed if the people do not participate in the campaign.

He told the Rotarians led by president Gil Reyes that his command will embark on four major programmes aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the province.

★ ★ ★

Cop relieved over sauna raid

PARANQUE: A Paranaque police substation commander was relieved yesterday by higher authorities for his alleged failure to supervise his men who reportedly dragged nine naked female attendants into the street during a raid on a sauna bath last April 26.

A TV crew filmed the dragging of the nine naked women from the parlour to the police jeep by a 10-man raiding team. It was shown on a TV news programme the next day. The actions of Paranaque's team drew many complaints. (Aris R. Ilagan)

★ ★ ★

New name for Bicol spring

DAET, Camarines Norte: Don Miguel M. Lukban Spring is the new name of the Boro-Boro Spring in barangay Tula-na-Lupa, seven kilometres from Labo.

The new name is contained in Resolution 1 VNo. C 101-89, approved by the Camarines Norte Water District (CNWD) board of directors here.

Lukban is a former Camarines Norte governor who devoted his work and time for the development of the Boro-Boro Spring.

Because of Lukban's dedication to the development of the local water utility, he personally checked its progress. (Be. B. Villaluz)

★ ★ ★

Students stampede into the Palacio Del Gobernador.

Students see red

Protest over tuition

Half-hearted support for economic policies



Miriam upstages her boss

Maybe we are just too impatient. Give President Aquino more time.

Nine-year-old Ray works in Manila's red-light district selling his 'services' to middle-aged men.

The children's work conditions, the study said, "pose a serious threat to the children's health and overall physical and psycho-social development."

Three months ago, prices of milk increased by an average of 15 per cent.


Under the elections law, a House resolution announcing a


Ambassador Rosalinda Tirona, director-general of the DFA's Office of Personnel and Administration Services, has left for Tel Aviv to make the initial investigation on the case against Enríquez.

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(AT1-TM-3)

KEIFAN, ground floor of a villa with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, swimming pool, central AC, very clean. Rent KD550. Tel. 2626484, 4-9 pm.

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SALMIYA, behind 'Video Lotus' near the garden. One spacious room in a flat with tele. facilities for Indian bachelors to share with an Indian Muslim family. Bus routes 24, 27, 45. Rent KD55. Tel. Mr Ismail, 5652741.

(AT2-47422-3)

SALWA, Block 7, Street 4, House 196. One big room with kitchen facilities, water and electricity for a family or bachelor. Rent KD50. Tel. 5611243.

(AT2-47406-3)

SALMIYA, near Pakistani School. One single room for an Indian working girl, or bachelor (non-smoker) to share with an Indian family. Tel. Fakhri, 5635034.

(AT6-47360-3)

SALMIYA, independent room, furnished, in a CAC complex with an attached bath, pool, car park and tele facilities to share with an Indian family. Tel. 5628532.

(AT6-47362-3)

RIGGAE, one semi-furnished spacious room in a 2-bedroom flat, with tele. facilities, for one single bachelor or working lady, to share with an Indian family. Rent KD60. Tel. 4894756.

(AT1-47388-3)

KUWAIT City, near the Alghanim Pharmacy. Accommodation for a bachelor to share with an Indian Catholic family. Tel. Matilda, 5616972, 7 am - 4 pm.

(AT2-47423-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq. Accommodation with tele. facilities for one Indian bachelor. Rent KD 30. Tel. Vahed, 2445561, res. after 4 pm.

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COMMODORE A-500 with monitor 1084, and software three months old, hardly used. Tel. Ahmed Inamdar 3918688, 3918788 9 am - 12.30 pm; 4.30 - 9 pm.

(AT6-47265-3)

Cars

NISSAN Sunny GL, 1984, automatic, AC, power steering, red, 4 doors, in good condition. KD600. Tel. 3984661 after 4 pm except Thursday/Friday, anytime.

(AT6-47351-3)

NISSAN Sunny GL, 1984, AC, automatic, rear wheel drive, engine in excellent condition, regularly serviced by BMW. KD600, cash, ono. Tel. Dias, 2529750.

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TOYOTA Corolla 82 model, white colour, AC, automatic in good condition, KD450 cash. Tel. Tony, 4817708/4847937, 9 - 11 am, 3 - 6 pm.

(AT2-47403-2)

APPLE IIE, double disc drive with 130 diskettes, games joy stick, good for youngsters. KD195. Printer Epson LX-88, new, KD85. Tel. 5712534 after 5 pm.

(AT2-47400-3)

HONDA Accord EXP, 1985, fully automatic, white, blue interior, one careful owner. In very good condition. Tel. 3717082, 8 am - 1 pm only.

(AT1-47382-3)

HONDA Accord, 1982, with AC, stereo, 4-door, tel. 5624857, 5622589 after 4 pm.

(AT6-47347-3)

NISSAN Liberta, 1984, white, 4 doors, automatic, AC, sunroof, hatchback, 70,000 kms, in good condition, KD900, cash or instalments. Tel. 5653952.

(AT1-47322-3)

NISSAN Liberta, 1984, AC, automatic, 4 doors, very reliable, practical, in good condition. KD500. Tel. Maureen, 5629307, Shaun 5615857, between 2-9 pm.

(AT1-47393-3)

HONDA Accord, 1983 model, four doors, sunroof, fully automatic, insured up to Sept 1989, and in good condition. Tel. 5658732, 10 am - 1 pm; 4 - 7 pm.

(AT1-47395-3)

TOYOTA Crown Super Saloon, 1984, black, 4 doors, automatic, AC, 62,000 kms, insured upto April 1990, KD1,900, cash or instalments. Tel. 2403280.

(AT1-47322-3)

TOYOTA Corolla GT, 1984, 5-speed, 70,000 kms, lady owner leaving Kuwait. Tel. Patricia, 3902922 ext 16 after 6 pm.

(AT6-47358-3)

Miscellaneous
A DOUBLE-STORYED 4,000 sq ft house on 17,500 sq ft plot within Udipti town, in Karnataka state, for sale. Tel. 3985979.

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SCANDINAVIAN rosewood dining table and chairs and complete sitting room set in excellent condition, KD800. Tel. 5311333.

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MAID required, Indian, for a family with one child, to live-in or part-time in Kuwait City, near the Meridian. Tel. Mr. Peter, 2420529, res.: 2460550, off. 4 - 7.30 pm.

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CHEMICAL engineer, Pakistani, first class master degree with specialisation in petroleum technology. Four years experience in chemical industry and three years in plastic seeking full time job. Tel. c/o. Mr Ashok Sharma, 2465577/88, during working hours.

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A GENTLEMAN with 15 years' experience seeks job as an auto-electrician, marine electrician or as motor diesel and petrol mechanic. Tel. 4330082, 8 am - 12 noon, 4 - 8 pm.

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HOUSEMAID, Sri Lankan lady, well-versed in English, can also work in an office, dealing with social affairs, visas, urgently needs a job with a European family. For details tele. 4310640.

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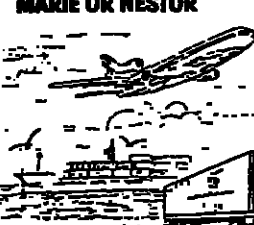
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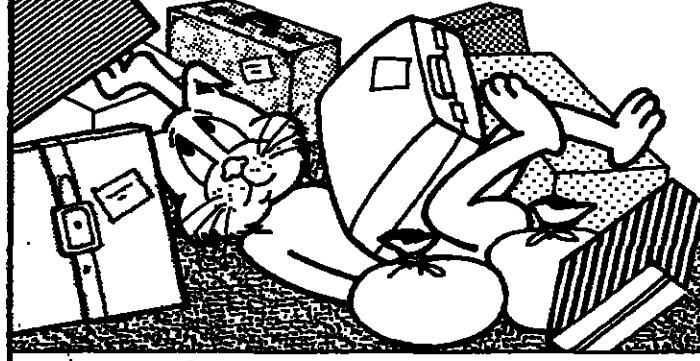
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DARTS

Thomas retains crown

THE blue ribbon event of the KBRC Kuwait Darts League season, the Men's Singles Knock-out competition, was held at the Gazelle Club on Thursday, and, despite the alternative attractions of visiting cricket dignitaries and Scottish country dancing, the entry of 51 players was the highest for several years.

With 4 boards in use throughout, it was defending champion Ian Thomas who got things underway against Brendan Richardson. In a game with 7 high scores, both hit 104's, but Thomas made no mistake with his doubles. On the same board Graham Warner made steady progress through his early matches to meet Thomas in the quarter-final.

Thomas had ridden his luck in the previous round when double 1 eluded him for numerous visits to the board, but opponent Don Sefton had found double 6 even more elusive. Once out of his system, Thomas found his shots again to edge Warner out of a semi-final spot 2-0.

The second board featured John Watson in excellent early form. Faced with consecutive Entente Cordiale opponents Brian Mitchelson and Nick Harvey, he found just the right scores when he needed them. Both 2-1 wins, he had to find 5 100's in 23 and 20 dart legs to defeat Mitchelson, and when Harvey looked set to take the deciding leg in the next round, he checked out with 73 for the match.

Steve Watters set off well with a 140 and a 110 finish, but in the absence of last year's beaten finalist John Donovan, it was left to Terry Slattery to try and halt Watson's progress to the penultimate round. There was to be no let up as Watson hit back to back 140's in 17 and 27 dart legs for a 2-0 win.

Board 3 featured several equally matched players. Andy Wilson caused the first upset of the night by eliminating the hard to beat Nobby Burton 2-0, with neither player at his best. Martin Rix made the most of a favourable draw to win his way to the quarter-finals without dropping a leg, where he faced Bob Cole. A string of earlier high scores and a 76 finish to beat Wilson, saw Cole through, but Rix hit the 100's when he needed them to narrowly win 2-1.

The final board saw the League's overall top of the averages, Erik Christensen, in action. Including a tough first round match with Wayne Moko, he won through each round 2-0 without playing at his best. Wallbangers Brian Pond and Stewart Skelhorn both hit 140's in progressing to round 3, but it was left to Mike Simms to try and prevent Christensen making the last four. Again the Dane was off peak form but did enough to win 2-0.

The first semi-final saw the two men scoring the best on the night, Thomas and Watson, in a repeat of the Captain's Cup final. Thomas still had the edge over his rival, winning 2-0 with 22 and 21 dart legs, just missing a 151 finish in the first, and winning with a 72 finish. In the other, Christensen beat Rix also by 2-0, even though in both legs Rix was level on score but failed to get his double first.

A great deal with expected of the final, but nerves seemed to upset the rhythm of both players. Thomas took the first leg, Christensen the second as neither found doubles easily. Finally Thomas got it right, and almost finished on double 16 for a 106 check out. Two darts later he found double 4, to clinch a 23 dart leg, and retain his championship.

A splendid night of dart was seen yet again, and with 120 high scores recorded in 40 matches, the high standard seen throughout the season was maintained to the end.

Espinoza gets another shot at world title

PHOENIX, May 20, (AP) — It's a chance Louie Espinoza has been anxiously awaiting for almost two years — a shot at another major championship. Tomorrow, he gets it.

Espinoza, who became the first native of Arizona to win a world title when he took the World Boxing Association junior featherweight crown in 1987, fights for the International Boxing Federation featherweight crown against champion Jorge Paez of Mexico.

"I'm grateful to have another opportunity for a world title," Espinoza said. "I especially want to thank Jorge Paez for giving me this chance. I've waited for a long time."



Pagliarulo dives to stop a hit by a Mariner. He was in terrific form when he batted.

Scott lifts Astros over Pirates

Pagliarulo puts Mariners to sword

NEW YORK, May 20, (AP) — Mike Scott pitched no-hit ball for seven innings and finished with a one-hitter, while Bill Doran knocked in all of Houston's runs, leading the Astros to a 3-0 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates last night.

Scott, 6-2, didn't allow a hit until Glenn Wilson led off the eighth with a single to center field. He is the fifth Major League pitcher to throw a one-hitter this season.

Scott retired the first 19 batters before he walked Rafael Belliard with one out in the seventh to lose his perfect game.

Scott finished with six strikeouts and two walks. Bob Walk, 4-3, gave up five hits in seven-plus innings and got the loss.

Houston took a 2-0 lead on Doran's sixth-inning triple to the center field fence, scoring Billy Hatcher and Craig Reynolds.

The Astros made it 3-0 in the eighth on Hatcher's double and stolen base, followed by a single for Doran.

Mets 3, Giants 2
Darryl Strawberry's walk off Rich Gossage with the bases loaded and two outs in the 10th inning gave the New York Mets a 3-2 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

Strawberry, who tied the score with his 10th homer in the sixth, drew four consecutive balls with the bases loaded to force in the winning run.

Cubs 8, Reds 2
Chicago manager Don Zimmer won a fourth-inning argument over an interference call against Ryan Sandberg, setting up a four-run rally that carried the Cubs past the Cincinnati Reds 8-2.

Vance Law had a two-run double in the disputed rally against Danny Jackson, 2-7, and later drove in another run with a single. Damon Berryhill had four hits and drove in two runs.

Dodgers 8, Expos 0
Tim Lincecum pitched a three-hitter for his league-leading third shutout and Jeff Hamilton hit his first career Grand Slam.

Belcher, 3-4, struck out six and walked two in his third complete game.

Kevin Gross, 4-3, allowed 10 hits and eight runs in seven innings, walking five and striking out four. Montreal lost its four straight.

Padres 8, Phillies 2
Benito Santiago had the first four-hit game of his career and drove in three runs as San Diego won its fourth straight.

Ed Whitson, 6-2, won his fourth consecutive decision. He allowed 10 hits, walked three and struck out two in his second complete game.

Larry McWilliams, 2-3, allowed eight hits and three runs in seven innings, walking one and striking out two. Duane Ward pitched the final two innings.

Yankees 9, Mariners 5
Mike Pagliarulo hit a double, two singles and two runs batted in for the Yankees.

Pagliarulo entered the game with a .154 average and was hitless in 15 at-bats. After Ken Phelps' two-run single tied the score at 3 in the third, Pagliarulo singled in the go-ahead run. Pagliarulo added an RBI single in the seventh for a 6-3 lead.

Rangers 4, Twins 2
With the score tied 2-2, Ruben Sierra and Julio Franco led off the sixth inning with consecutive homers off Frank Viola, 2-6. It was the second straight game Texas hit consecutive homers.

Sierra had gone 20 consecutive games without a homer, the longest drought of his Major-League career.

Blue Jays 9, White Sox 3
Tony Fernandez broke out of a 1-for-17 slump with a go-ahead three-run homer as Toronto won for the third time in four

games under manager Cito Gaston, who took over Monday on an interim basis after Jimmy Williams was fired.

Mike Flanagan, 3-3, allowed eight hits and three runs in seven innings, walking one and striking out two. Duane Ward pitched the final two innings.

Indians 4, Orioles 1
Brook Jacoby hit a pair of two-run homers, the fifth multihomer game of his career, and Tom Candiotti and Doug Jones combined on a seven-hitter.

Candiotti, 5-2, allowed three hits and one run in 7-2-3 innings. Jones finished for his eighth save.

Results
American League
Detroit Tigers 2, Kansas City Royals 0
Cleveland Indians 4, Baltimore Orioles 1
Toronto Blue Jays 9, Chicago White Sox 3
Texas Rangers 4, Minnesota Twins 2
New York Yankees 9, Seattle Mariners 5
California Angels 3, Milwaukee Brewers 1
Boston Red Sox 7, Oakland Athletics 3

National League
Chicago Cubs 8, Cincinnati Reds 2
Los Angeles Dodgers 8, Montreal Expos 0
New York Mets 3, San Francisco Giants 2
San Diego Padres 8, Philadelphia Phillies 2
Atlanta Braves 3, St. Louis Cardinals 2
Houston Astros 3, Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Exercise may be unhealthy

Fitness craze goes overboard

BOSTON, May 20, (UPI) — The evidence can be seen in the undulating rhythms of aerobics classes to the flushed faces of joggers who seem to be everywhere these days — Americans crave fitness.

But while the potential health benefits of exercise are clear, some say America's preoccupation with being fit and trim has gone overboard.

Doctors' offices are filled with injured runners and diet-obsessed teenage girls with eating disorders. Studies indicate too much exercise may be unhealthy, contributing to ailments like the bone-thinning disease osteoporosis.

"There have clearly been some casualties from this kind of health consciousness," said Dr. Arthur Barsky, an associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

"You see it in eating disorders and some of the problems around dieting. There are clearly a lot of sports injuries," said Barsky, author of "Worried Sick: our troubled quest for wellness."

Even critics like Barsky endorse moderate exercise, but they argue that for many people the desire to exercise has become too all-consuming.

"For some people, their exercising develops a compulsive, driven aspect," said Barsky, who contends these people exercise at the expense of family and other important parts of their lives.

Barsky and others believe that for many people the pursuit of fitness has even taken on religious overtones.

"As people in past epochs sought to lead a religious life, we now seek to lead a healthy life. We've replaced the religious quest for the salvation of our souls with the secular quest for the salvation of our bodies," Barsky wrote in an essay.

Attaining a state of wellness is like attaining a state of grace. For many, the highest purpose of human activity is not to purify the soul, but to purify the body, and optimal physical health is now the object of conscious, sustained and deliberate endeavor," he wrote.

Dr. Muriel Gillik, an instructor of medicine at Harvard, said

some of the "current attitudes about fitness mirror a movement in the 18th and 19th centuries called 'physical hygienism,'" which maintained that eating well and leading a healthy life would help solve social ills.

"I think that while there is evidence that people should exercise, there is very little evidence we're going to improve our whole society by exercising and dieting," said Gillik.

One of the problems with this body-as-temple attitude is that it begins to equate fitness and health with goodness and morality, Barsky said.

Devotion to exercise, he said, reflects an individual's ability to display "self-discipline and self-control, to forge character and be a means of personal and spiritual reform. Attaining a state of peak physical conditioning is thought tantamount to freedom from disease, longevity and moral virtue."

"Living a meaningful life has thus been reduced to a health problem. Health has become an imperative which, like a religious or moral code, dictates specific norms of conduct."

Tucker converted from the foul line to level the score.

Chicago then went to their standard play — putting the ball in Jordan's hands. The spectacular Jordan drove the lane then pulled up to take a fadeaway jumper.

Although he missed the shot, he was fouled and given two more tries from the line. Jordan then made both — giving him 8-8 from the foul line in the final 78 seconds — to replenish the lead.

The Knicks had one last chance to send the series back to New York for a seventh game but Johnny Newman's desperation three-point shot clanked off the rim and Chicago claimed their victory.

Meanwhile, two top basketball players are set to become the first Yugoslavs to join the NBA in the United States.

Vlade Divac and Zarko Paspalj, who helped Partizan Belgrade capture the Korac Cup this season and who also won Olympic silver medals in Seoul, said they had signed a contract with a managerial agency dealing with the National Basketball Association.

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Bulls defeat Knicks to reach conference finals

CHICAGO, May 20, (UPI) — Michael Jordan, perfect from the foul line at the end, made two free throws with four seconds left as the Chicago Bulls beat the New York Knicks 113-111 yesterday to win their National Basketball Association playoff series.

The victory gave Chicago a four games to two triumph in the Eastern Conference semifinals and put them into the conference finals against the Detroit Pistons, who will host the first game of the best-of-seven series tomorrow.

The Western Conference finals were to begin today with the Phoenix Suns going against the Lakers in Los Angeles.

Jordan, who led the scoring with 40 points, appeared to put the game out of reach when he calmly sank two free throws with nine seconds remaining to give the Bulls a 111-107 edge.

The Knicks, however, worked a play to sharpshooter Trent Tucker who made a three-point shot and was given a chance for a four-point play when Craig Hodges committed an ill-advised foul on the shot.

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The Refrigerator returns to Bears

LAKE FOREST, Illinois, May 20, (AP) — William "The Refrigerator" Perry, the appliance-sized defensive lineman, is back and the Chicago Bears are welcoming him with open arms.

Perry, the downfallen hero, is trying to stage a comeback in the National Football League, slowly and unlike his meteoric rise to glory and riches as a rookie in 1985.

"He's working hard and we hope we can get him back to the way he played in '85, '86 and part of '87," said Bill Tobin, director of player personnel. "Last year he broke his arm and then disappeared. He's back and he's having fun. Absolutely, he can be a force on his team."

Perry's problems last year began in mini-camp when he reported weighing 377 pounds (171 kilograms) angering coach Mike Ditka.

When training camp started, Perry was not there. Instead, he was sent to a programme for rehabilitation because of his apparent "eating disorders."

He returned and started the season, but broke his arm after the third game. Instead of attending meetings as his arm healed, he disappeared, angering some of his teammates.

To this day, there has been no explanation of why he stayed away from the team. Perry this week refused to be interviewed by reporters.

But he attended all the sessions in the three-day mini-camp that ended yesterday and participated in all drills except pushups because of the weak condition of his left arm. He still wears a soft cast on it.

"William is doing okay," said Ditka. "He has worked very hard. He's been lower (weight) than he is right now. You're never happy when a guy goes lower and comes back up a little bit."

But he'll be where we want him when the season starts, so I'm not really worried about his weight."

Perry's weight remains a secret although he appears to be in the 330-pound (149-kilogram) range. The Bears would like him to get down to 320 pounds (145 kilograms).

Defensive co-ordinator Vince Tobin's plans for 26-year-old Perry this season to be the third tackle, rotating with starters Dan Hampton, 32, and Steve McMichael, 31, both of whom are coming back from knee surgery.

"William is a good football player and we need all the good ones we can get," said Tobin. "If he's 100 percent healthy, he's a force. He's strong and hard to block."

"Right now he's a back up tackle but that depends on how our defensive ends come along. We'll try to get the four best players we can in the line. We have options with William. He's an insurance policy and we can move him at end."

His teammates are pulling for Perry to make his comeback successful, especially since the Bears lost Al Harris in the free agent draft.

"We need 'The Fridge,'" said Hampton. "The loss of Al Harris set us back." He said Perry is "working hard and his attitude is good."

Linebacker and defensive captain Mike Singletary was even more enthused.

"I think at this point William has made up his mind to do whatever it's going to take to help the team," said Singletary. "He's a tremendous asset and still a tremendous football player."

"It's all a matter of his making up his mind," said Singletary. "Once he makes up his mind, watch out. He's going to be tough."



The Refrigerator: staging a comeback

KIFCO return from successful tour of India and Pakistan

Kuwait cricket side wins three matches, loses one

KUWAIT International Finance Company (KIFCO), led by Mansoor Khan, recently returned from a successful tour of India and Pakistan. During their 10-day visit, they played four matches, winning three.

In the opening match in Bombay against BCCI India the visitors proved to be too good for the hosts. Playing on turf for the first time, KIFCO's slow bowlers spun out the host for 171 runs in 43 overs. Amin Ahsan and Rafiq Khan fully used the wicket and bagged 3 wickets each.

Opening the innings for KIFCO, Maqsood Akhtar and Nasir Ahmed provided a solid start by putting 52 runs. After losing Maqsood and Shahid Pervaz in a short interval, Pervaz Aslam joined Nasir. In his brief stay at the wicket, Pervaz Aslam hit five sixes (all out of the ground) and six fours in his 67 runs off 48 balls. On the other hand Nasir Ahmed kept on playing his steady inning and was 51 not out when KIFCO reached the target in 33 over with still 7 wickets in hand.

The second encounter against Parsi Gymkhana was a different story. Playing a team comprising of first class and a few Indian under-19 cricketers, who recently visited Pakistan, KIFCO found an uphill task to stop them making quick runs.

However, the introduction of



The KIFCO squad before their match against Karachi Gymkhana.

spinners changed the complexion of the game. The hosts, who at one stage were 83 for one in 12 overs were restricted to a total of 221 for all out in 44 overs. Shahid Pervaz and Amin Ahsan took the bowling honours. They captured 3 for 35 and 4 for 35 respectively.

KIFCO was again provided with a good first-wicket partner-

ship by Maqsood Akhtar

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

200 winners

STRAFORD, England, May 20, (Reuters): Martin Pipe yesterday became the first British racehorse trainer to send out 200 winners in a season. Pipe capped an astonishing season when the novice hurdler Anz Mitter, partnered by Peter Scudamore, won the second race of the evening at this Midlands track.

Charles ahead

SCARBOROUGH, New York, May 20, (AP): Bob Charles of New Zealand, the defending champion, shot a 7-under-par 63 to tie his course record and take the first-round lead Friday in the \$300,000 commemorative at the Sleepy Hollow Country Club.

E. German coaches

EAST BERLIN, May 20, (Reuters): East German athletics coaches, stunned by the times recorded last year by American Florence Griffith Joyner, have reviewed their coaching techniques in a bid to recover their country's traditional sprinting dominance.

Four-car team

KIDLINGTON, England, May 20, (AP): Jaguar announced yesterday it will enter a four-car team in the 24 Hours of Le Mans auto race in June as it attempts to defend its title in the world's most prestigious endurance event.

Alleged payoff

PAMPLONA, Spain, May 20, (AP): The team of Tour de Spain winner Pedro Delgado yesterday it was completely satisfied with the cyclist's denial that he had not bribed a Soviet rider to stage off a Colombian attack during the 22-day race.

Britain win

BETHESDA, Maryland, May 20, (AP): With a lot of help from former Wimbledon champion Virginia Wade, a team of tennis players from Great Britain's Parliament yesterday won a doubles competition against players from both houses of Congress.

Susan Stakes

BALTIMORE, May 20, (AP): Heavily favoured Imaginary Lady led from wire-to-wire and won the \$250,000 Black-eyed Susan Stakes in track-record time yesterday at Pimlico race course.

Mini-Olympics

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 20, (AP): Cyprus led in the gold medal tally at the end of the second day yesterday of the mini-Olympics for small countries, capturing 17 followed by Iceland with 14 and Luxembourg with 6.

Action promised

LONDON, May 20, (Reuters): The Football Association (FA) has promised action against a small group of English supporters whose behaviour marred a 2-0 victory by the England B team over Iceland in Reykjavik last night.

Birmingham fans

LONDON, May 20, (AP): Birmingham fans who swarmed onto the field during a soccer game last weekend at Crystal Palace, leading to 16 injuries and 17 arrests, were part of an organised plan to cause trouble, Crystal Palace chairman Ron Noades charged yesterday.

Jimmy Connors

ROME, May 20, (UPI): Tennis star Jimmy Connors may be an American in Paris next year. He is considering moving his family, including his wife, Paris, son Brett, 10, and daughter Aubree Leigh, 5, to the French capital for a year.

Thomas Muster

ROME, May 20, (Reuters): Thomas Muster, injured in a freak car accident in March, said yesterday he would have the plaster cast removed from his leg next week and hoped to begin training again in about two months.

IAAF GP

NEW YORK, May 20, (AP): Olympic gold medalists Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Andre Phillips, Mac Wilkins and Peter Rono, along with world record-holder Butch Reynolds, will headline the Bruce Jenner Classic, the opening meet of the 1989 IAAF Mobil Grand Prix at San Jose, California, on May 27.

Italian soccer

MILAN, Italy, May 20, (Reuters): Result of an Italian First Division soccer match today:

2,000 Guineas

DUBLIN, May 20, (Reuters): Sheikh Mohammed's Shad, a big disappointment in the English 2,000 Guineas, won rich compensation today with an impressive victory in the 12-horse Irish 2,000 Guineas.

W. German soccer

BOHN, May 20, (Reuters): West German First Division soccer results today:

Bayer Munich	2	St Pauli	1
Hamburg	2	VFB Stuttgart	1
Kaiserslautern	1	Karlsruhe	2
Bayer L.	2	Eintracht	2
Borussia M.	2	Bochum	0
Borussia D.	4	Bayer U.	2
Hanover	2	Cologne	2
Stuttgart B.	1	Waldhof M.	3
Werder K.	2	Nuremberg	1

RESULTS of Sheraton Bridge Club

marathon game held on Friday:

1. Mesdani & Bayoumi
2. Mrs Rita & Tibb
3. Drexler & Mukherjee

Kentucky basketball team hit with three years probation

MISSION, Kan., May 20, (Reuters): The University of Kentucky basketball programme was placed on probation for three years yesterday for violations of National Collegiate Athletic Association regulations, the NCAA announced.

However, Kentucky escaped a complete ban for the 1989-90 season because of what the NCAA called "significant actions," taken on its own initiative to

clean up its basketball programme, one of the most successful in the country.

The major penalties imposed on Kentucky were:

— A ban on post-season play for the 1989-90 and 1990-91 seasons, and restrictions on games against non-conference teams.

— A ban on television appearances in

the 1989-1990 season.

— A limit of two basketball scholarship in 1989-90 in addition to one already committed, and three in 1990-91.

— An order to hand back its share of receipts from the 1988 NCAA Basketball Championship playoffs.

The NCAA investigation followed reports of widespread recruiting and other violations in Kentucky's basket-

ball programme including illegal payments to prospective players and altered academic scores for team members.

In its report, the NCAA said it had discovered several major violations including payment of cash to the father of a prospective student, cheating by a student on an academic achievement test, permitting the student to play even

though the university should have known he was ineligible, and a willful breach of NCAA rules by a former assistant coach.

The NCAA said its punishment was mitigated by Kentucky's efforts to correct the situation, including appointing a new athletics director and accepting the resignations of the basketball staff headed by former coach Eddie Sutton.

Liverpool capture English FA Cup

Rush returns to haunt Everton

LONDON, May 20, (Reuters): Welsh international striker Ian Rush came on as a substitute and scored twice in extra time today as Liverpool beat city rivals Everton 3-2 in the English FA Cup soccer final.

Rush, the tormentor of Everton in 1986 when he scored twice in the only previous final between the two teams, scored after 95 and 104 minutes of a pulsating match which will forever be recalled as a memorial to the 95 Liverpool supporters who died in the Hillsborough tragedy last month.

The victory secured Liverpool's fourth FA Cup triumph and completed the first part of what will be an unprecedented English League and Cup double if Liverpool clinch the championship next week.

Rush, who spent an unhappy year in Italy with Juventus before returning to Liverpool, had not scored for them since February 4, but became the central figure of an emotional afternoon after replacing Irish international John Aldridge in the 72nd minute.

Aldridge had opened the scoring after four minutes and Liverpool seemed to be on course for a

comfortable if unflattering win in normal time until Everton equalised dramatically in the final minute.

Substitute midfielder Stuart McCall stabbed the ball home to send the match into extra time and he levelled again, after Rush's first goal, with a brilliant volley after 102 minutes.

But Rush, like a ghost from Everton's haunted past, swooped again to give Liverpool an emotional victory on a hot, sun-drenched afternoon at Wembley stadium.

Liverpool's win stretched their unbeaten run since Jan 1 to 23 matches of which they have won 19.

Regrettably Rush's second goal and the final stages of the match saw repeated pitch invasions by both sets of fans — the high fences surrounding the pitch at Wembley having been removed — and the match was interrupted by pleas for the pitch to be cleared before Liverpool completed their win.

Such scenes had seemed unlikely earlier as Liverpool took control with Aldridge's opening goal. A long pass by Scottish international defender Steve Nicol and an astute angled pass



Rush screams with joy after scoring the winning goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

by midfielder Steve McMahon set him up to beat Neville Southall with a rising right foot shot from 15 yards.

Everton, for whom Scottish winger Pat Nevin was always a serious threat, were rarely able to break out of Liverpool's midfield

stranglehold and their virtual impotence lulled Liverpool into complacency as the game wore on.

The Everton defence, caught square by Aldridge, was repeatedly opened up through the middle by the running of

John Barnes, Peter Beardsley and Ray Houghton, but a series of chances was wasted.

Aldridge sent a header wide, Barnes had one saved, Aldridge shot wide and then Barnes was crudely bodychecked by the clumsy Kevin Ratcliffe to

prevent another goal before the interval.

Celtic triumph

And in Glasgow, Scotland, Celtic robbed Rangers of the Scottish soccer treble today, lifting the Scottish Cup with a 1-0 victory to avenge the loss of its League title.

Striker Joe Miller provided the goal which won the all-Glasgow final in the 41st minute.

As Celtic fans celebrated in Hampden Park, Rangers players thanked their own supporters at the end of a season in which the club has won both the League championship and the Skol Cup.

Miller, who missed several games this season through illness and injury, effectively filled the gap in Celtic's attack left by the late withdrawal of Andy Walker, victim of an eye injury.

Four minutes before half-time, the Rangers defence was caught out. It looked as if Rangers's England full back Gary Stevens would clear the danger, but his attempted pass back was short

and Miller seized it, putting his low shot into the corner of the net.

World No. 5 edges Bruguera

Agassi reaches Italian Open final

ROME, May 20, (AP): Second-seeded Andre Agassi of the United States overpowered unseeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain 6-3, 6-4 today to move into the final of the \$1 million Italian Open men's tennis championships.

Agassi will now meet Alberto Mancini in the final. Mancini made short work of his opponent with a 6-2 6-4 victory.

Agassi, continuing to play his best tennis of the year, faced resistance from the 18-year-old Spaniard but won the big points, usually scoring with his rocket forehand, one of the most feared shots in the game.

The 1-1/4-hour match was even for the first four games as both played steady baseline tennis and held their serves for 2-2.

They traded service breaks for 3-3 before the 19-year-old Agassi, ranked No. 5 in the world, took control.

After Bruguera double faulted while serving at 40-30, Agassi scored the decisive break, hitting a forehand winner to reach break point and benefiting from a subsequent forehand error by the Spaniard.

Agassi held serve for 5-3, then broke again in the next game for the set, scoring with three straight winners: a forehand, a forehand volley and a backhand topspin lob that dropped near the baseline.

Bruguera sailed a backhand wide on set point. Agassi broke to a 3-0 lead in the second set, losing only three points in the process. But he then began rushing his shots and committed a rash of errors, allowing Bruguera to win the next three games,

including eight of nine points at one stretch.

With the score at 5-4, Agassi broke serve for the second time in the set to close out the match. He wasted two set points before drilling a forehand into the corner that Bruguera couldn't handle.

Bruguera, ranked No. 31 in the world, was playing in his first Grand Prix semifinal. Agassi, who won seven tournaments in 1988, reached his first final of this year.

"I definitely could have played better today," Agassi said. "Considering that he's younger and more inexperienced, I need to play consistently. I did what I had to do."

Agassi said he eased up while leading 3-0 in the second set but never felt in danger.

"I felt like he was out of the match and I let up a little," Agassi said. "He kicked the gears up and took me by surprise. But then I bore down again."

Agassi had high praise for Bruguera.

"I see a lot of potential in him," Agassi said. "He hits the ball off both sides and he's not scared. His style is similar to mine, but he plays farther back and his more topspin. He doesn't have a weakness. When you hit to either side you don't know what's coming next."

The Spaniard, who had upset Jimmy Connors in the third round, said, "I was more tired than usual today. I learned that Agassi's pace is tough."

Bruguera said that before the match he asked his father and coach, Luis, for advice.

"My father told me to keep the ball long and to slow the pace," he said.

It wasn't enough.



Andre Agassi

Graf to meet Sabatini in West German final

World No. 1 crushes Kelesi



Sabatini returns the ball during her match. (Reuters wirephoto)

WEST BERLIN, May 20, (Reuters): World number one Steffi Graf won through today to a showdown with Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini, the only player to beat her this year, in the final of the West German Women's Tennis Championships.

Graf and world number three Sabatini cruised through their semifinals to set up a fascinating confrontation just over a week before the two head for the French Open, the second Grand Slam tournament of the year.

Graf disposed of Canadian Helen Kelesi 6-2 6-0 in exactly an hour while Sabatini needed just 14 minutes more to reach tomorrow's final with a 6-2 6-1 victory over unseeded West German Isabel Cueto.

Graf beat Sabatini on her way to winning the first Grand Slam title of the year, the Australian Open in January, but went down to the Argentine in a three-set battle on clay in the final of the WITA Championships in Amelia Island, Florida, last month.

Another defeat tomorrow before Paris would be a psychological blow to the 19-year-old West German, whose training programme has been hampered by a heavy cold in the past few days. But she was not

worried about facing her rival.

"I am just taking this match like any other. It doesn't make a big difference because it's Sabatini," she said. "Of course I will have to be patient and play better tennis."

Sabatini, 19, was afflicted by none of the concentration problems that have dogged her game for the past few weeks and she rarely put a foot wrong against Cueto, ranked 42nd in the world. She said she was looking forward to the clash with Graf.

"The match could be very important and help me a lot just before Paris," she said. "I feel I am ready for the French but a win tomorrow would give me a lot of confidence."

Sabatini, one of the few players on the tour who believes she can beat Graf, upset the West German with heavy top-spin from the baseline in Florida and said she would try the same tomorrow.

"I know she doesn't like it so it will be one of my tactics," she said.

Graf's cold may be a handicap if the match goes to three sets. The temperatures on the Rot-Weiss centre court have averaged 28 degrees Centigrade all week and the forecast is for more hot weather tomorrow.

Lenzi dives to gold

Gao takes women's title

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., May 20, (Reuters): Mark Lenzi, the fast-rising star of US diving, won the 1-metre springboard gold yesterday in a meet between the United States, China and the Soviet Union — only his third international competition.

"He is, unique in the way he came on and took on the world," said Lenzi's coach, Hobbie Billingsley. "It's very, very rare with so little background to do what he has done."

A former champion high school wrestler, Lenzi followed up on his 1-metre success at the World Cup diving competition with his victor here in the Challenge Cup.

Despite a nagging wrist injury, Lenzi finished with 610.85 points, 48.75 points ahead of China's Tan Liangden, the World Cup 3-metre springboard champion. Chinese Li Deliang was third followed by American Pat Evans.

"After doing so well at the FINA Cup, I just want to stay on top and do well," Lenzi said. "I felt if I didn't do well a lot of people would think it was a fluke, so I just wanted to go out and show them I could dive."

Lenzi has stayed off the tower and 3-metre springboard since hurting his right wrist in the US college championships but is eager to return to those events since the 1-metre is not yet an Olympic event.

Gao Min, the 1988 Olympic 3-metre springboard champion and World Cup 1-metre gold medalist, own the women's 1-metre springboard title with 449.20 points.

Irina Lashko of the Soviet Union was second with 444.80. American Julie Farrell was third with 441.70 points.

China leads the team competition with 18 points, followed by the United States with 15 and the Soviet Union with 12.

Baker-Finch retains lead in Colonial golf

FORT WORTH, Texas, May 20, (Reuters): Ian Baker-Finch of Australia battled blustery winds to retain his one-stroke lead yesterday after two rounds of the million-dollar Colonial golf tournament.

The 28-year-old Australian managed an even-par round of 70 despite four bogeys, including a pair at the 17th and 18th holes that brought him back to the pack with a five-under-par total of 135.

Nick Price of Zimbabwe and David Frost of South Africa both fired four-under-par 66s to move into a tie for second at four-under 136. American Mike Sullivan was alone at 137.

"It definitely was a lot harder today," Baker-Finch added, playing conditions at the Colonial Country Club. "The wind blew right from the start and it was blustery. I bogeyed four holes and all were because of the wind."

"I used to be a good wind player," Baker-Finch added. "When you are on the European tour and also playing at home in Australia, you have to be good if you are successful."

Isao Aoki of Japan and Fulton Allem of South Africa were both one-stroke behind Baker-Finch after the opening round, but struggled through their second rounds of the course. Aoki shot 74 for 140 while Allem had a 73 for a 139 total.

Americans Clarence Rose, Gil Morgan and Scott Simpson were tied at two-under 138.

Frost's round was impressive because he did it without a bogey as he posted four birdies. Price had five birdies and one bogey.

Masters champion Nick Faldo of Britain shot his second straight round of 72 as he had four bogeys and two birdies.

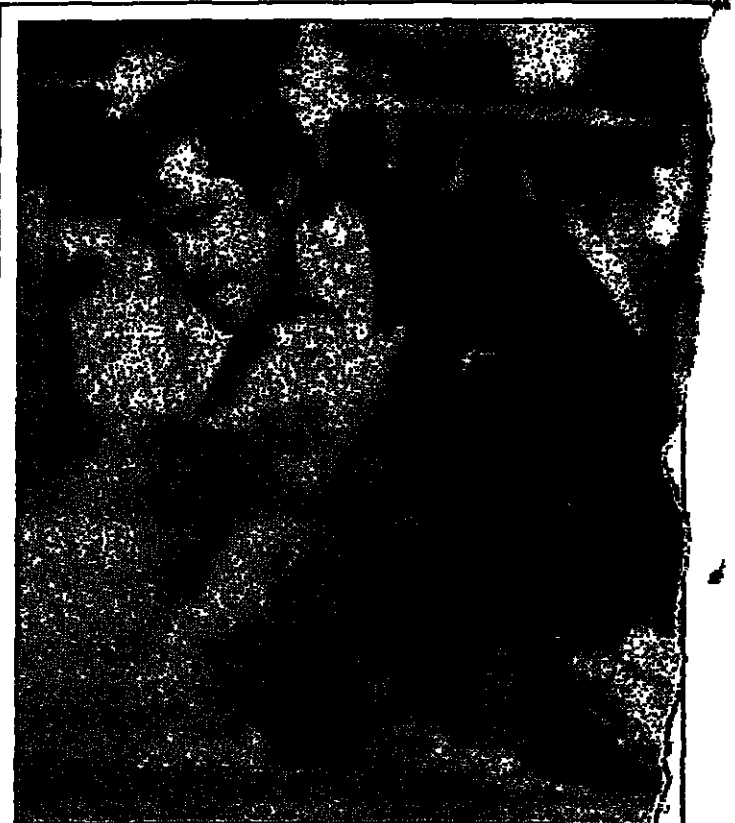
"I just didn't do the right things at the right time," Faldo said. "I hit the wrong club several times because of the wind and I didn't putt very well."

King on top in LPGA tourney

KINGS ISLAND, Ohio, May 20, (Reuters): Betsy King began the day two strokes back but fashioned a five-under-par 67 yesterday to take the lead in the LPGA Championship golf tournament.

King, winner of three tournaments already this year, completed 36 holes in eight-under-par 136 for a one-shot lead over Ayako Okamoto of Japan.

King, playing in a slight drizzle, began her round with a bogey on the first hole after hitting her drive in the bunker. But the 33-year-old King bounced back with birdies on the fourth and fifth hole.



Seve Ballesteros blasts out of a sand trap.

Ballesteros closes gap

MONTICELLO, Italy, May 20, (Reuters): Severiano Ballesteros moved menacingly in sight of joint leaders Ross McFarlane and Ian Baker-Finch after shooting five birdies in his second round 69 in the Open yesterday.

Ballesteros, who has failed to win this Italian event in seven attempts, is on 140 — three behind Britons McFarlane (68) and (72).

McFarlane, son of a former Manchester United footballer, six birdies after dropping two strokes in the first four holes.

He said: "I changed my putter after suffering from the yip switched to the left below right putting method — and it worked."

"After such an arid spell it's nice to be in a challenging again."

Feberty, Italian champion in 1986, was never able to find the which brought him seven birdies and an eagle in his seven-undg opening round of 65.

He dropped three strokes going out but was two under coming in.

He and McFarlane are one stroke ahead of Sweden's Mats Persson, who is seeking his first tour win. He was round in 72.

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